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STRIPE BLUE

CHAPTER 9

NAOKI'S CLUB ENTRANCE TEST

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ALSO OPEN TO PROJECTS THAT THE TRANSLATOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

著者近影

松島幸太朗 Matsushima Yukitaro

森高夕次 Moritaka Yuji

作者が持っている概念を、そのまま書いても漫画にならないわけで、作品にするためには、絵にしろ話にしろ誇張という作業がかかってくる。野球に限らずスポーツ物は、この誇張が重要だと思っている。

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森高夕次＋松島幸太朗

ショー☆パン

全33巻絶賛発売中!

COVER DESIGN/ ASHIDA SHINTARO

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

第3巻［新しいグローブ］

作画 森高夕次
原作 松島幸太朗

ストライプブルー

STRIPE BLUE vol.3

Moritaka Yuji & Matsushima Yukitaro presents

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

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作画 森高夕次
原作 松島幸太朗

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アー坊VS原木、元チームメイト同士のガチンコ勝負!
はたして原木の入部なるか!?
そして始まる野球部での生活はドキドキがいっぱい…
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無敵看板娘 [全17巻]	佐渡川準
轟-ZHIME [全5巻]	吉野弘幸＋樋口直人＋佐藤敏悦
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ヤンキーフィギュア [1巻]	ミッチェル田中
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著者近影

松島幸太朗　森高夕次

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SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS

ストライプブルー
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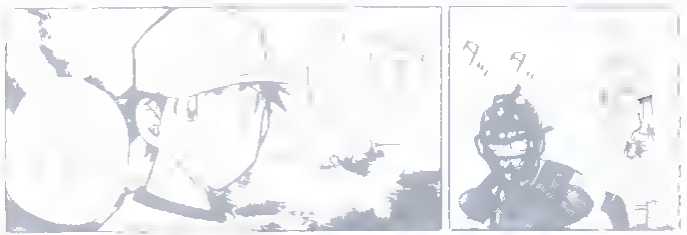

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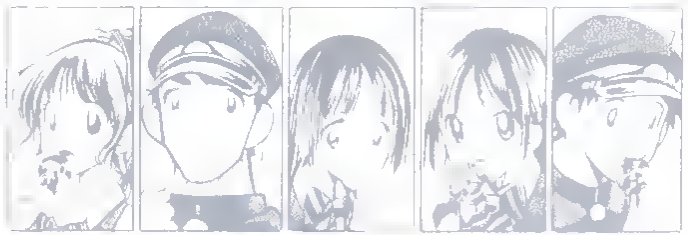
少年チャンピオン・コミックス
SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS



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スプリンプスター

（第0巻）

森崎久次（原作）
松島幸太朗（作画）

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

（週刊少年チャンピオン増刊）
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ストライプブルー

STRIPE BL

THE STORY SO FAR

During a visit to Shima-o Private Senior High School, Abo got caught up in a collision of events during a batting showdown with Hachigorou, and out of a sense of responsibilitychose to go to Shima-o High Hana-chan, Norippe, Naoki, and even Heita and Hachigorouenrolled at Shima-o High with him. On his own, the unscouted Naoki has gotten a "club entrance test", only to find out that his pitching opponent is.... Abo

THE MAIN PLAYERS

Shouji Naoki

Followed Hana-chan to Shima-o High. Is a teammate of Abo.

Heita Sekiguchi

Shima-o High 1st year. Catcher. Plated in the senior level big tournament

Hachigorou Danda

Formed a battery with Heita in the big tournament.

Kai Shima-o

Shima-o High 3rd year. Catcher. Baseball club

We love BASEBALL!

Abo Ozawa · Shima-o High 1st year. Left/right twin pitcher. Has a brother in the pros.

Sora Shima-o

Shima-o High 2nd tear. Baseball

Goushi Hananabe

Shima-o High baseball club coach. Scouted Abo

Chairman Shima-o

Board Chairman of Shima-o High. Also the baseball club Head Coach (Chief)

Hana Eguchi (Hana-chan) · Abo's childhood friend. Is at Shima-o High to play real baseball.

Noriko Asai (Norippe) · Abo's childhood friend. The quiet type of girl.

vol.3 Stripe Blue vol.3

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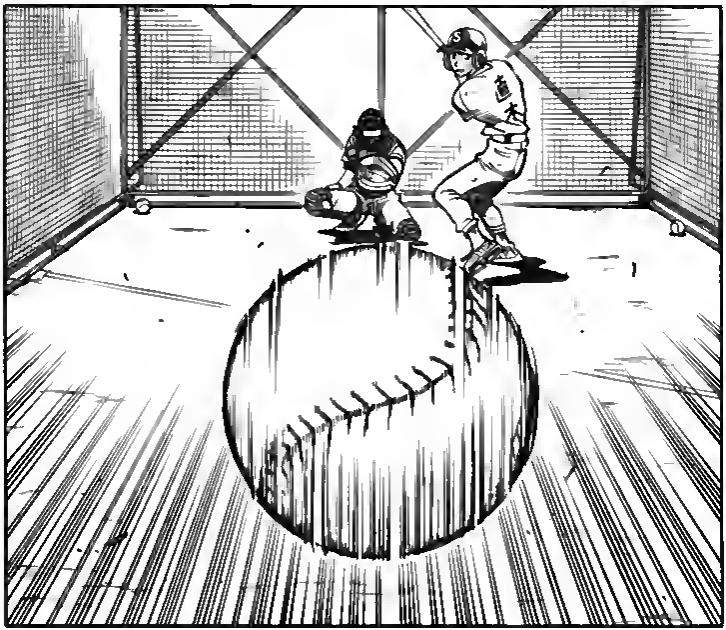
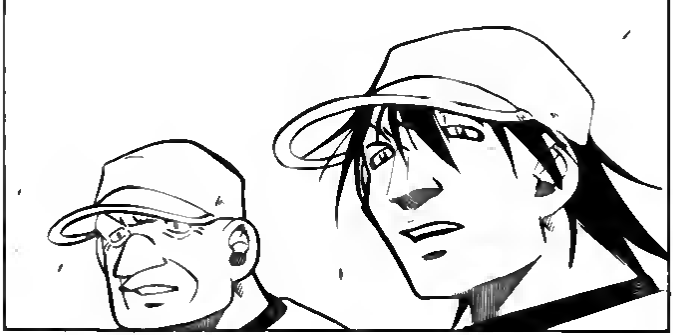
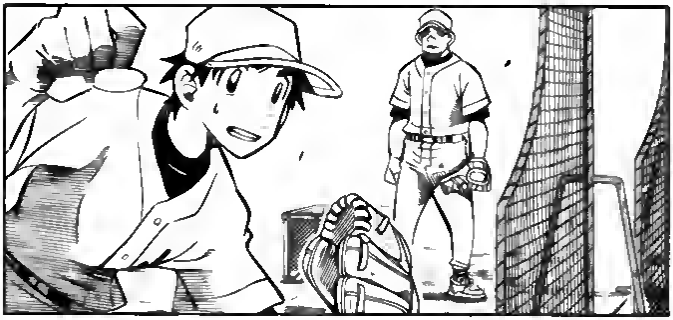
Naoki's Club Entrance Test

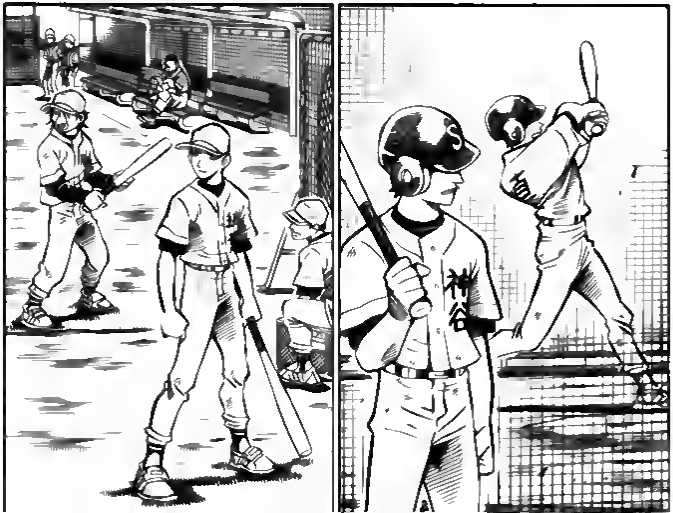


RIGHT DOWN THE CENTER?!

IT'S REALLY COMING STRAIGHT DOWN THE CENTER!
EVEN WITH HIS REALLY BAD CONTROL!
IT'S SO FAST
AND . . . YET . . .
SFX: "GUN"
SFX: "ZUBAN"

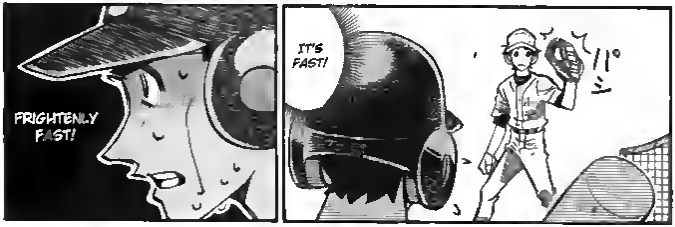





神谷

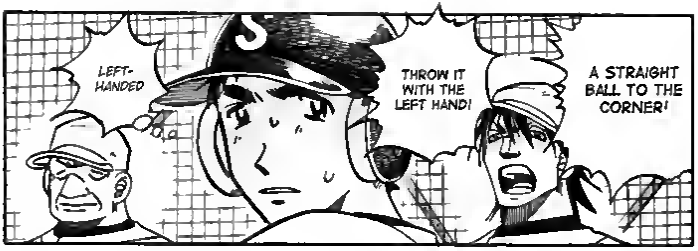
SFX *KURU-*
THAT WAS A STRIKE ON THE CORNER!
NO!
DAMN! THAT PITCH WAS A RISING BALL!
HUH?

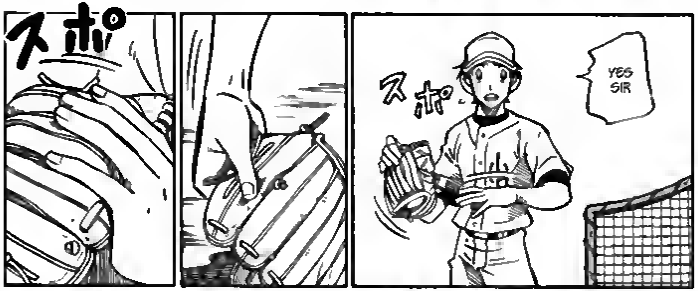
SFX "PYU-"



SFX "FASH!"

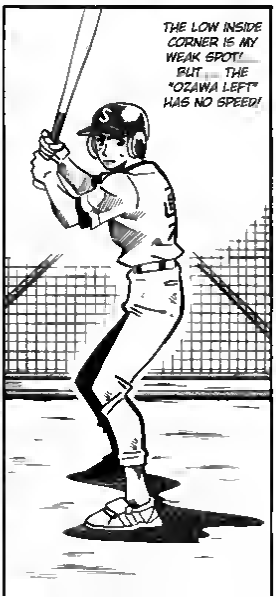
WHAT'S MORE, HE'S THROWING FROM THE BATTING PITCHER'S SPOT
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S A REAL BASEBALL ? AS OPPOSED TO THE RUBBER ONES IN JUNIOR HIGH


LEFT-HANDED
THROW IT WITH THE LEFT HAND!
A STRAIGHT BALL TO THE CORNER!


スポ
スポ
YES SIR

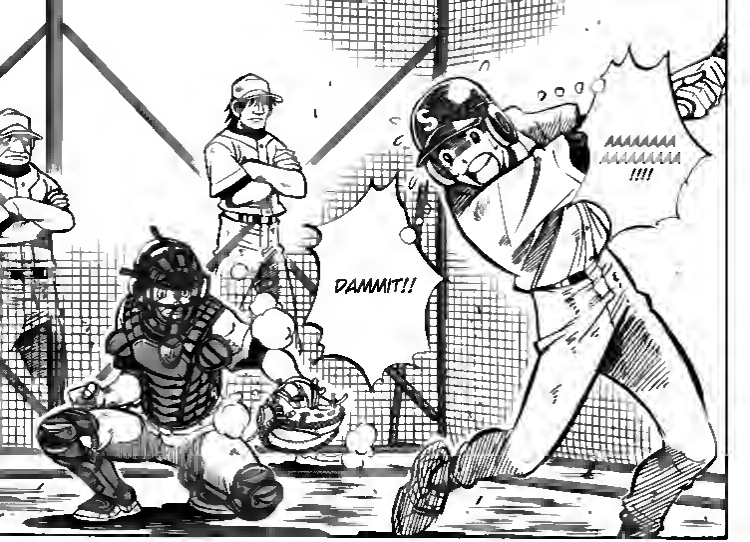
SFX *SUPO*

IT'S THE SAME PITCH! I HIT IT OR THEN... SEE CHAPTER 1!


THE LOW INSIDE CORNER IS MY WEAK SPOT! BUT... THE "OZAWA LEFT" HAS NO SPEED!

EGUCHI EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKE PUSHY GUYS

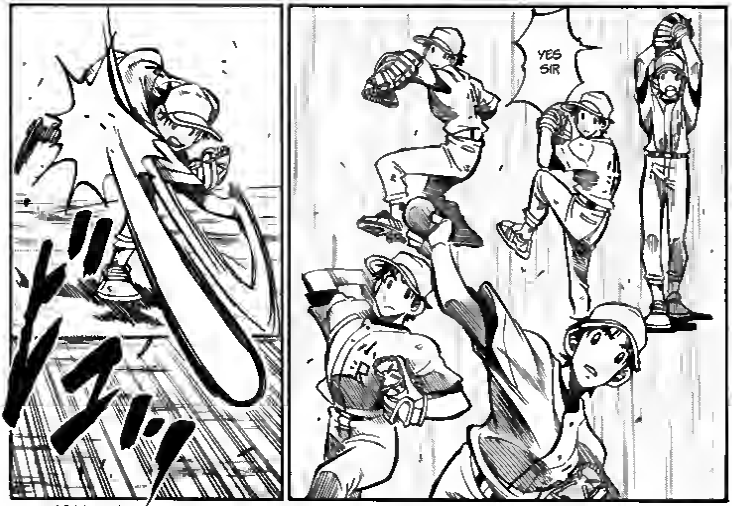
I GOT A 100% CHANCE OF NAILING IT
IF THE "TOTAL-CONTROL LEFT" COMES RIGHT ON TARGET
SFX "BYU-"
SFX "GU-KU-A"
OOF
RIGHT THERE
HERE IT COMES
SFX "GUN"
SFX "BASH!!"

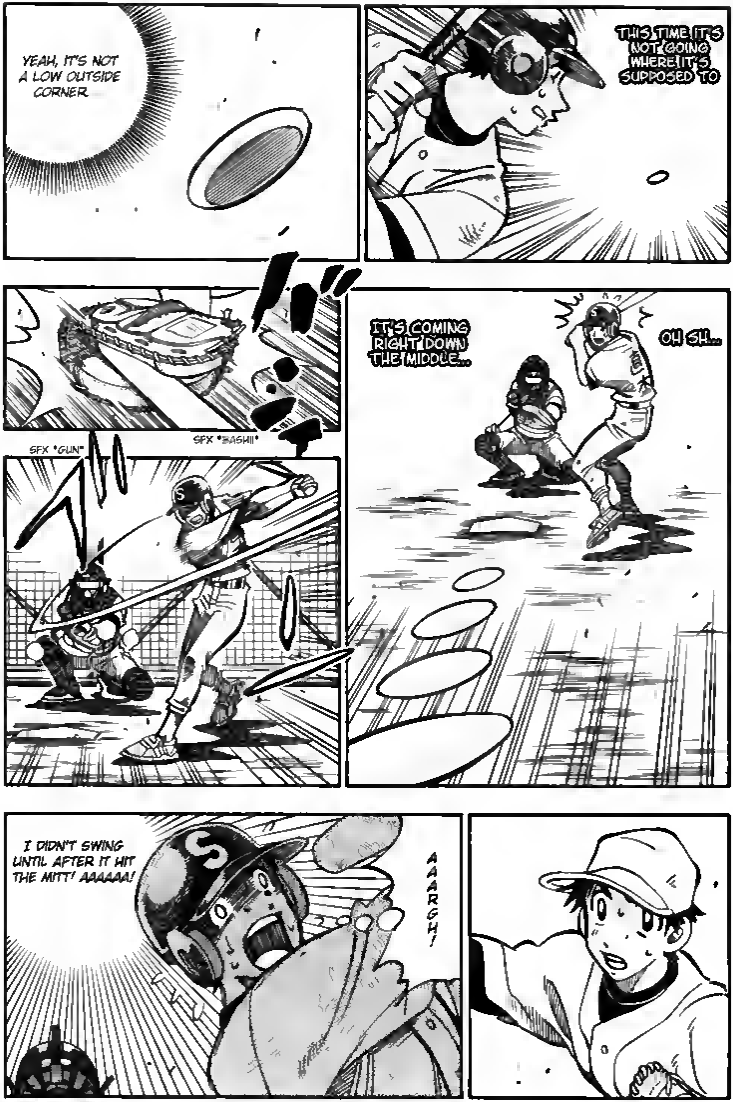

AAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAA
!!!!
DAMMIT!!

I WAS TOO IMPATIENT

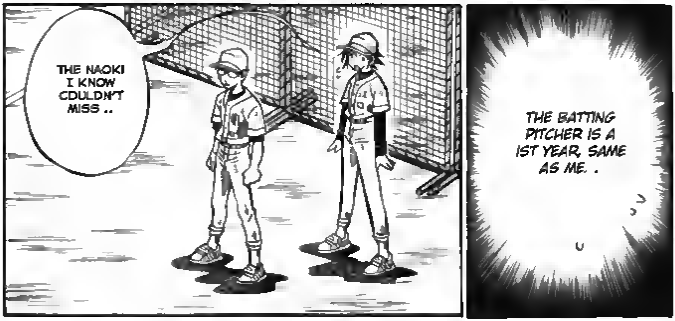
AFTER THAT FASTBALL THIS ATHATT SCARY SPEED WAS MY SENSES OUT OF WHACK!

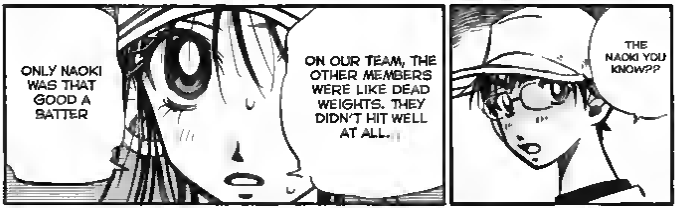
LOW OUTSIDE CORNER
RIGHT-HANDED...
NEXT UP
FANNING TWICE IN A ROW DOES NOT MAKE ME LOOK GOOD


YES SIR
ドゴッ
SFX "BYU-"


YEAH, IT'S NOT A LOW OUTSIDE CORNER.
THIS TIME IT'S NOT GOING WHERE IT'S SUPPOSED TO
SFX "BASH!!"
SFX "GUN"
IT'S COMING RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE...
OH SH...
I DIDN'T SWING UNTIL AFTER IT HIT THE MITT! AAAAAA!
AAARGH!

NOW IT'S UP TO 3 SWINGS IN A ROW, STILL NOTHING BUT AIR!
OH GOD I LOOK AWFUL!


THE NAOKI I KNOW COULDN'T MISS ..
THE BATTING PITCHER IS A 1ST YEAR, SAME AS ME. .


ONLY NAOKI WAS THAT GOOD A BATTER
ON OUR TEAM, THE OTHER MEMBERS WERE LIKE DEAD WEIGHTS. THEY DIDN'T HIT WELL AT ALL.
THE NAOKI YOU KNOW??

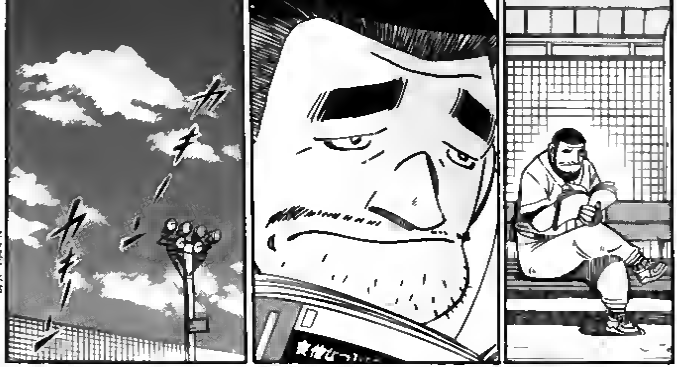
COULDN'T MATCH UP AGAINST NAOKI
OR RATHER, THE "LEFT-HANDED ABO"...
THE ABO OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

BUT THE "RIGHT'S" SPEED HAS GOTTEN AMAZING..
I CAN'T REALLY SAY...
THE TWIN SWORDS PITCHING GRADUALLY DEVELOPED...
SO THEN.
SFX "GUN"
WAAA
LEFT-HANDED HIGH OUTSIDE CORNER
5TH PITCH
MAKE IT A CURVE-BALL
SFX "BASH!!"
RIGHT-HANDED, STRAIGHT DOWN THE CENTER!
6TH PITCH
YES SIR

ブン!
ブン!!

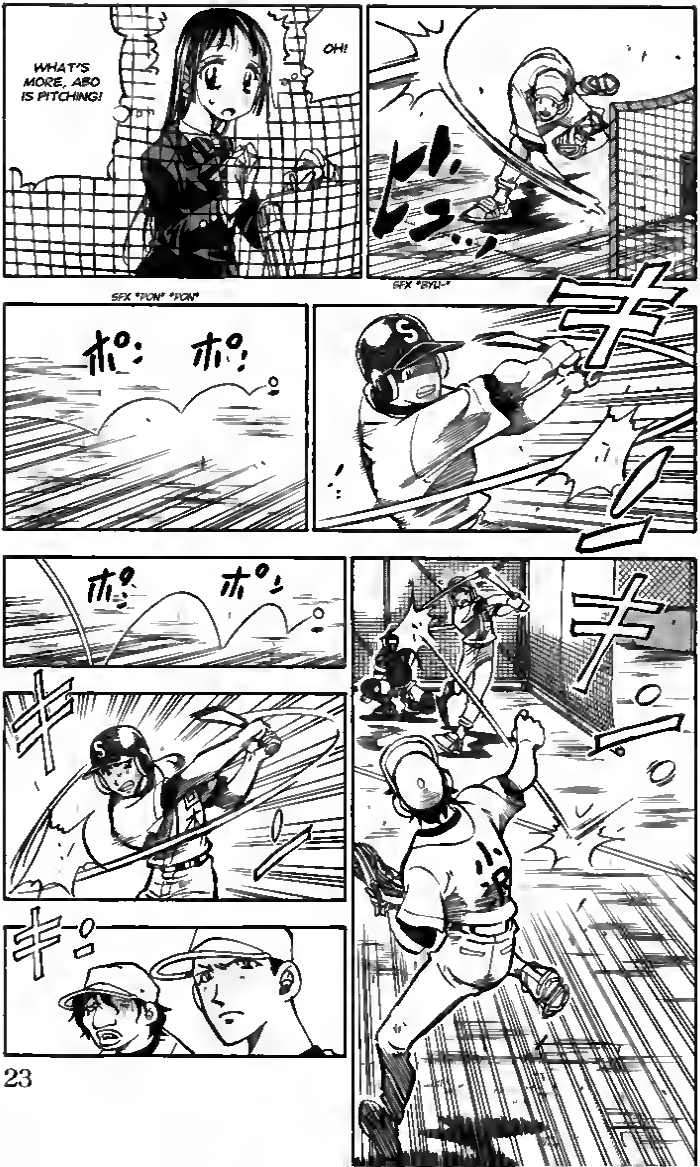
I'VE FANNED AT 6 PITCHES IN A ROW!

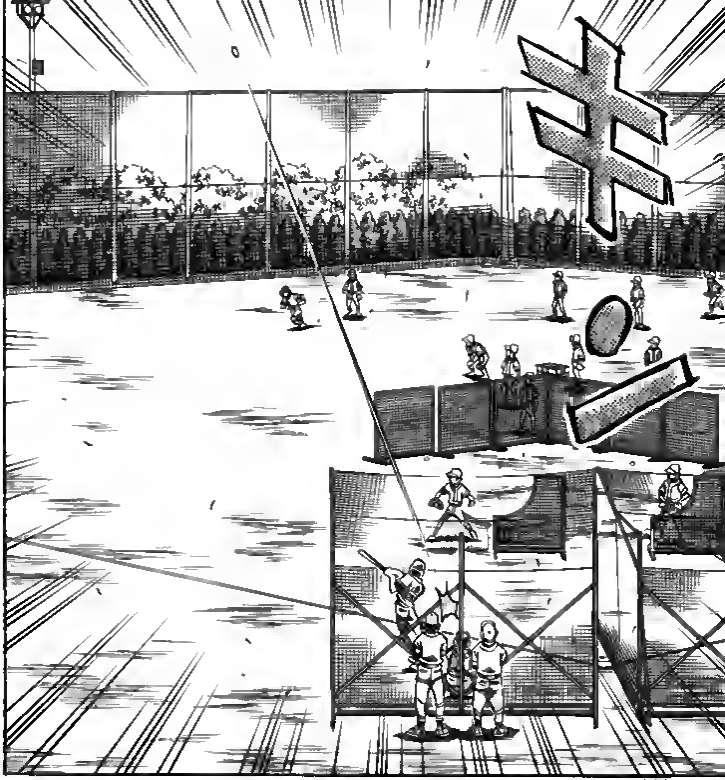
UNBELIEVABLY BAD
THIS IS...
YUP
ABO IS JUST AMAZING!
COMPARED TO THIS "UNHITTING NAOKI"...
THIS SWITCHING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT HAS HIM UNDER A SPELL!
THE BATTER IS HELPLESS
I JUST WANT TO SPROUT WINGS AND RUN AWAAAAAAAAAY!!
I WANT TO JUST DISAPPEAR FROM HERE PLACE!

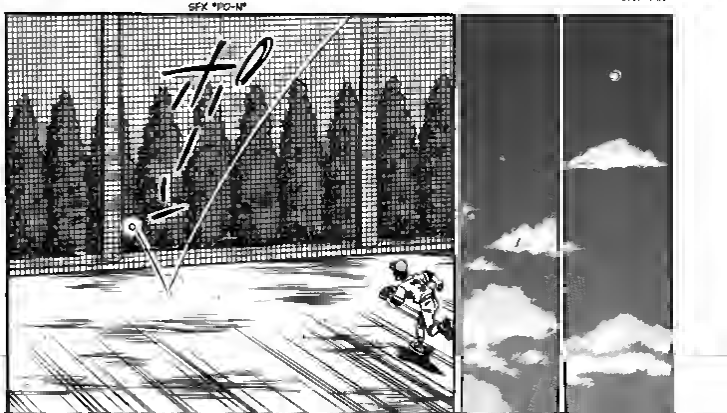

SFX "KAKI-N"

NAOKI PUT ON A UNIFORM AND HE'S HITTING!
SFX "DA-"
IT'S NAOKI
AH!

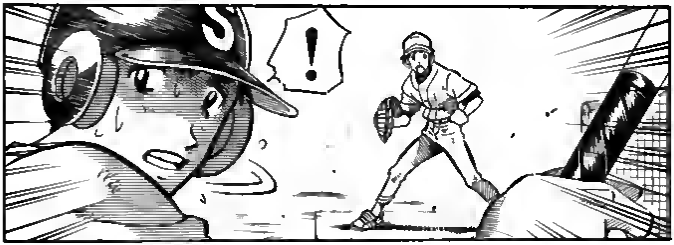
OH YEAH! HE'S GETTING A CLUB EN TRANCE TEST!
HEY!
SFX "TA TA TA"
AND THE OTHER GUYS HAVE STOPPED PRAC TICE AND ARE JUST WATCHING


WHAT'S MORE, ABO IS PITCHING!
OH!
SFX "BYU-"
SFX "PON" "PON"
SFX "KIN"


SFX "KIN"


SFX "PO-N"

STOP!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S 5 MINUTES!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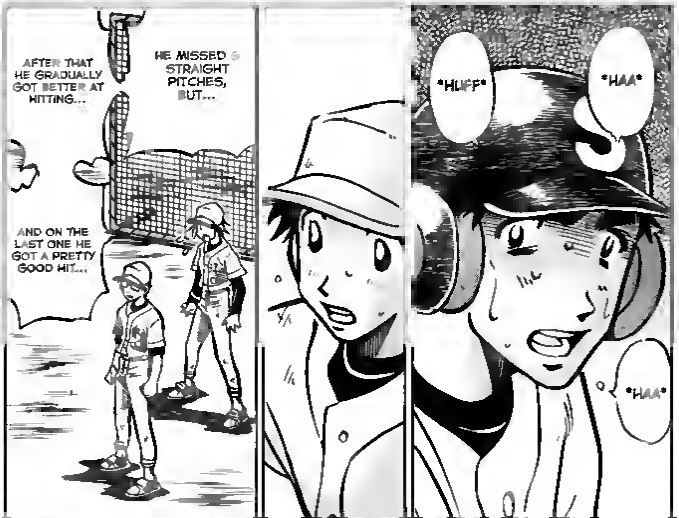
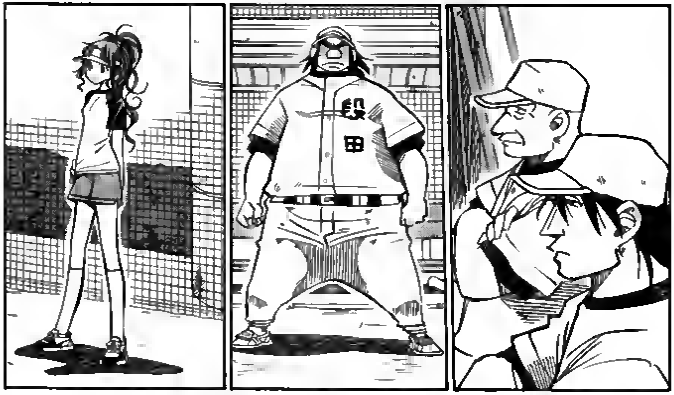

AFTER THAT HE GRADUALLY GOT BETTER AT HITTING...
HE MISSED 5 STRAIGHT PITCHES, BUT...
AND ON THE LAST ONE HE GOT A PRETTY GOOD HIT...
HUFF
HAA
HAA

DID HE PASS?!
AFTER WHAT I SAID BEFORE...
HEY ABO!
!
WHY'D YOU GO EASY ON HIM?!
EASY
I DIDN'T GO EASY ON HIM

S

YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU DIDN'T BASE UP?
NO SIR
I'M TELLING THE TRUTH
YOU THINK MY EYES CAN'T TELL?!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY OF THAT BULL!

I DIDN'T TAKE IT EASY ON HIM
I...
I'M NOT...



I... I DIDN'T, SIR
YOU DID!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE DENYING IT
AND YET YOU DID IT ANYWAY..
I WENT SO FAR AS TO TELL YOU NOT TO LIGHTEN UP ON HIM
S

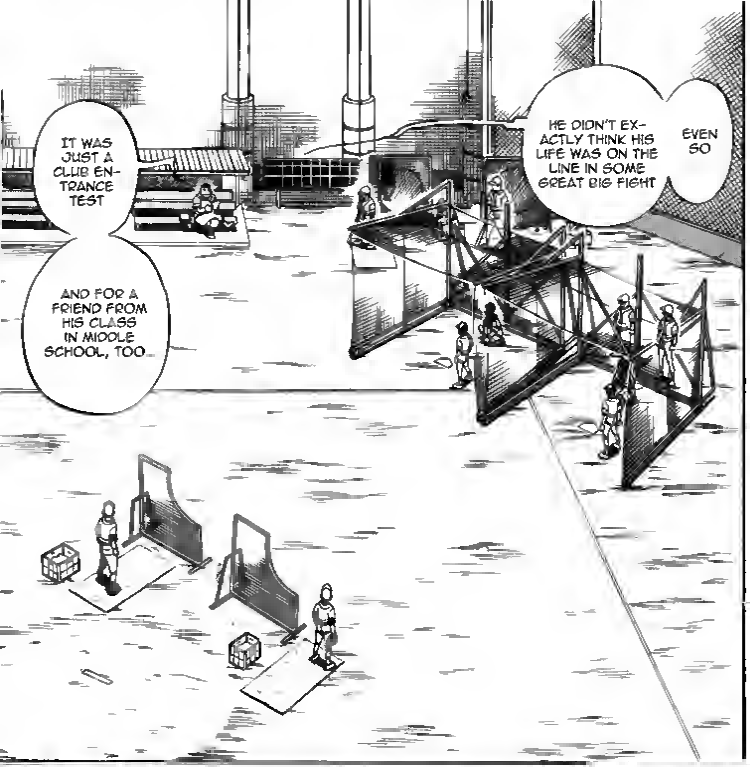
ABO
!
TAKANABE!

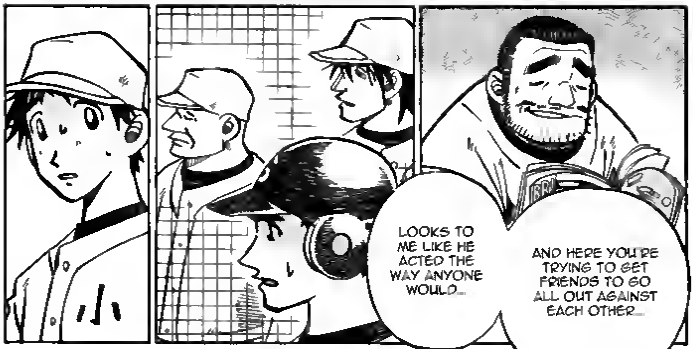
I...
TAKANABE SAN, PLEASE BELIEVE ME...

DIRECTOR

?
YOU'RE STILL TOO YOUNG..
NOBODY IN THE WORLD WILL SAY, "YES SIR, I DID"...
IF YOU SAY, "YOU WENT EASY ON HIM"
THINK ABOUT IT
PEOPLE WITH ANY KIND OF RELATIONSHIP...
IN ANY KIND OF SITUATION..

ONLY THE KID KNOWS THE TRUTH
WELL...
YOU MAY AS WELL JUST DROP IT
IF HE WAS WILLING TO CAUSE THIS BIG A SCENE JUST TO GO EASY...
THEN HE DEFINITELY DID IT FOR THE SAKE OF HIS FRIEND

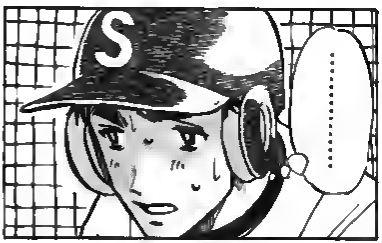

IT WAS JUST A CLUB ENTRANCE TEST
AND FOR A FRIEND FROM HIS CLASS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO...
HE DIDN'T EXACTLY THINK HIS LIFE WAS ON THE LINE IN SOME GREAT BIG FIGHT
EVEN SO


LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE ACTED THE WAY ANYONE WOULD...
AND HERE YOU'RE TRYING TO GET FRIENDS TO GO ALL OUT AGAINST EACH OTHER...

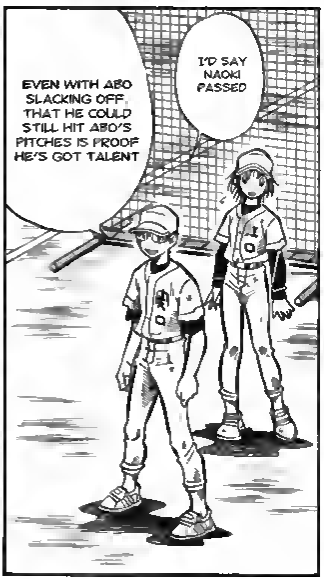
HYPOTHETI-CALLY...
WELL..
HAVE LOOKED, IT WAS AFTER THAT THAT NAOKI COULD HIT...
FOR 6 PITCHES IN A ROW... NAOKI GOT NOTHING BUT AIR AND, HOWEVER BAD ABOMAY
ABO DIDN'T HIDE IT WELL
HEHE
BUT THAT'S CORRECT ABOUT WHAT HE DID!
AND SO...
AND SO... DID I PASS...?!

FAT

WHAT'LL WE DO?


S

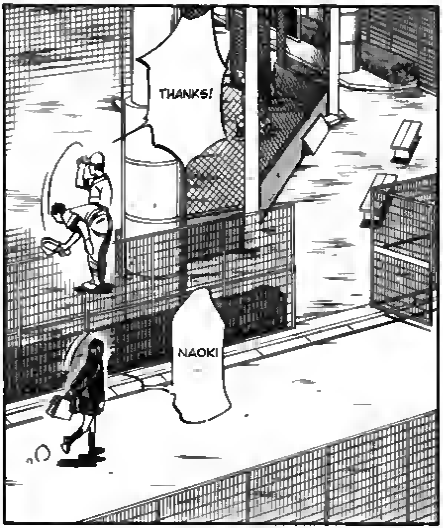
WE'LL GIVE YOU AN ANSWER ON OUR DECISION TOMORROW
WE CAN'T DECIDE RIGHT HERE AND NOW

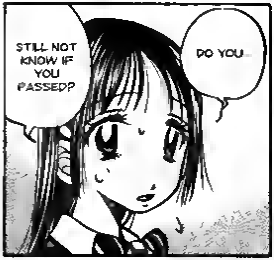

EVEN WITH ABO SLACKING OFF, THAT HE COULD STILL HIT ABO'S PITCHES IS PROOF HE'S GOT TALENT
I'D SAY NAOKI PASSED

SFX "KURU"
UNDER-STOOD
YOU WERE CLEAR ABOUT HIM NOT PITCHING LIGHTLY, AND YET
DIRECTOR
OZAWA...
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN GOING EASY ON ME... I WOULDN'T HAVE HIT A THING AND IT'D BE ALL OVER FOR ME
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME!

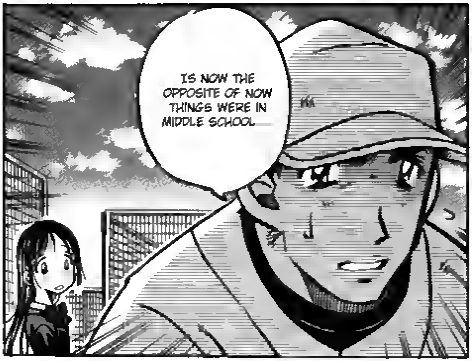
YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING!
"TWIN-PITCHING ABO"...
I UNDERSTAND WHY THIS HIGHSCHOOL WAS SO IMPRESSED WHEN THEY SCOUTED YOU!
THIS IS...
SAINT ADOU OZAWA'S LITTLE BROTHER
HMM MM
AND NOW THIS BASEBALL CLUB HAS RECOGNIZED HIS ABILITY
TILL NOW I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A PUT ON
WITH THIS "TWIN-PITCHING"
BUT
THINGS GOING LIKE THIS AND THAT
AND ALL I'VE DONE IS SERVE AS THE FALL GUY IN "TWIN-PITCHING ABO'S" DEBUT

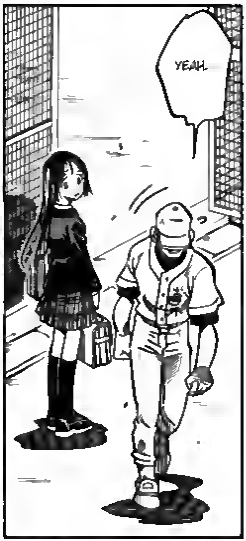
DID SHE SEE IT ALL
ASAI...


THANKS!
NAOKI

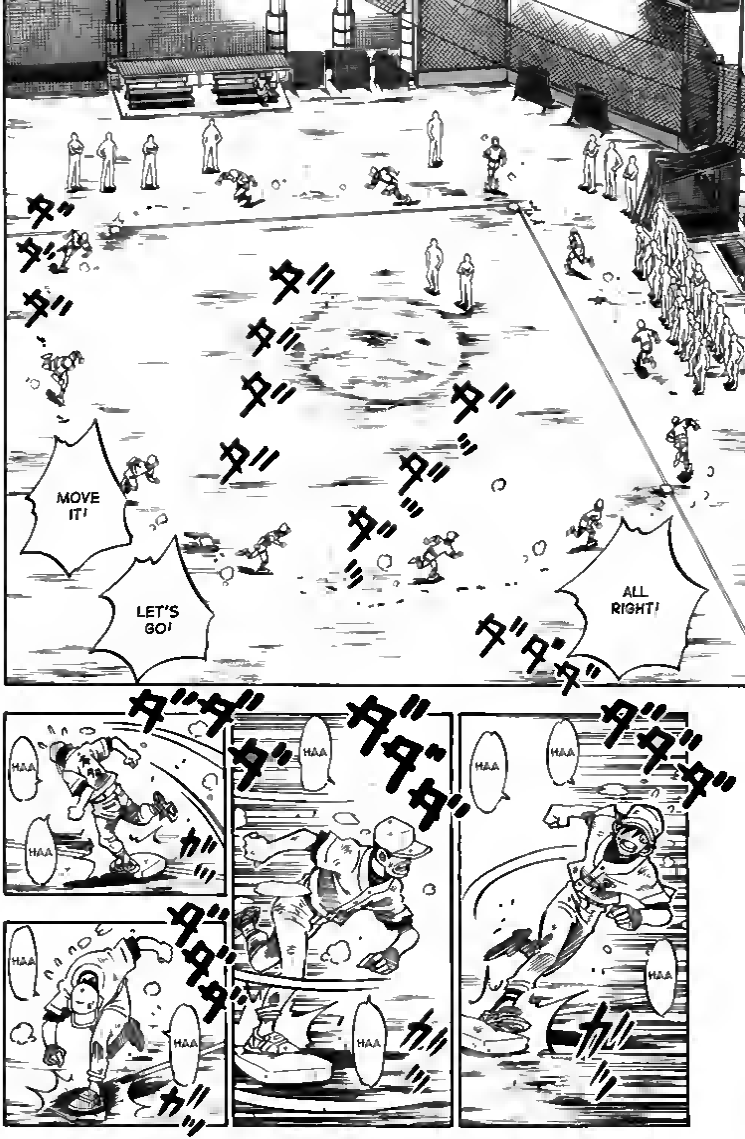

STILL NOT KNOW IF YOU PASSED?
DO YOU

MY AND OZAWA'S ABILITY COMPARED WITH EACH OTHER
FU...

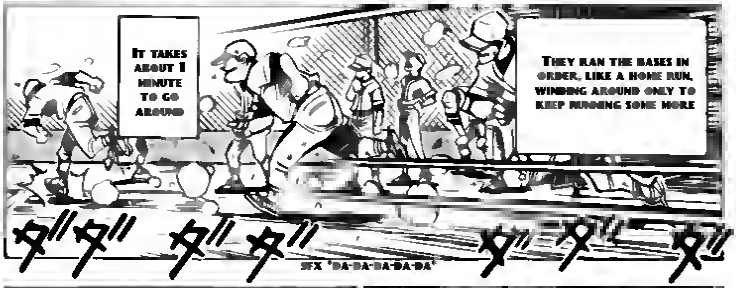

IS NOW THE OPPOSITE OF HOW THINGS WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL...

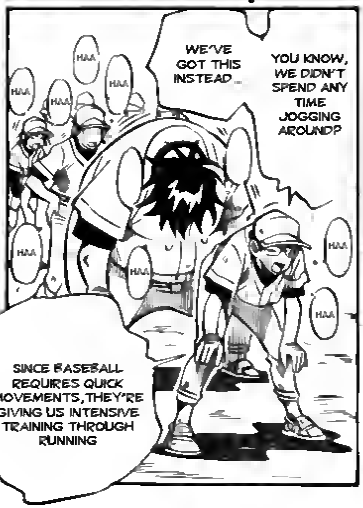

YEAH.

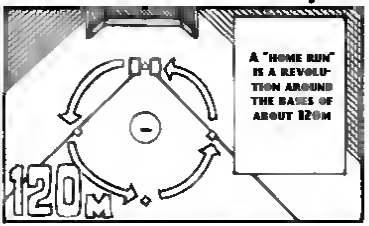
NAOKI'E CLUB ENTRANCE TEST ENDED WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT, AND PRACTICE RESOMED
ALL-RIGHT!
HUSTLE!
ALLRIGHT! THAT'S IT!
SFX *P-I-I-P
7 HOURS
NO MORE ROTATING AROUND THE FIELD?
VERY GOOD! NOW, THE LAST THING IN PRACTICE WILL BE BASE RUNNING!
AND FOR THIS THE 1ST YEARS WILL JOIN IN TOO!

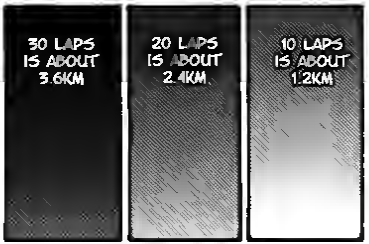

MOVE IT!
LET'S GO!
ALL RIGHT!
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

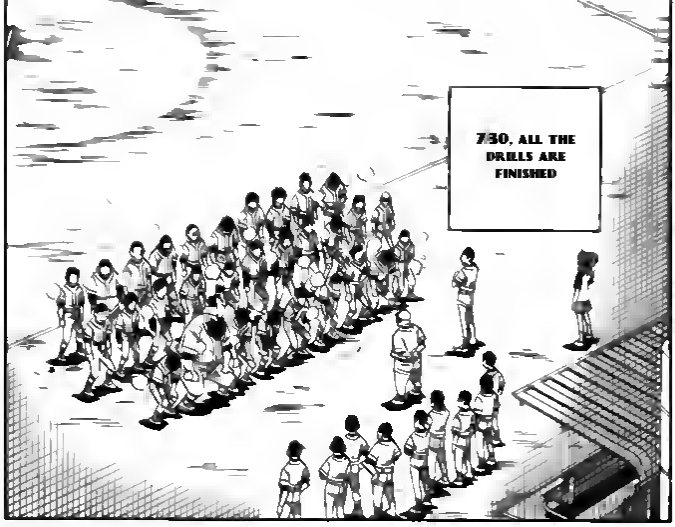
HEY YOU 1ST YEARS! YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SITTING AROUND!
HAA
HAA
HAA


IT TAKES ABOUT 1 MINUTE TO GO AROUND
THEY RAN THE BASES IN ORDER, LIKE A HOME RUN, WINDING AROUND ONLY TO KEEP RUNNING SOME MORE
SFX "DA-DA-DA-DA-DA"


WE'VE GOT THIS INSTEAD...
YOU KNOW, WE DIDN'T SPEND ANY TIME JOGGING AROUND?
HAA
SINCE BASEBALL REQUIRES QUICK MOVEMENTS, THEY'RE GIVING US INTENSIVE TRAINING THROUGH RUNNING

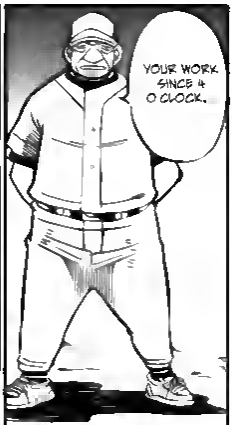

120M
A "HOME RUN" IS A REVOLUTION AROUND THE BASES OF ABOUT 120M


30 LAPS IS ABOUT 3.6KM
20 LAPS IS ABOUT 2.4KM
10 LAPS IS ABOUT 1.2KM


7/30, ALL THE DRILLS ARE FINISHED

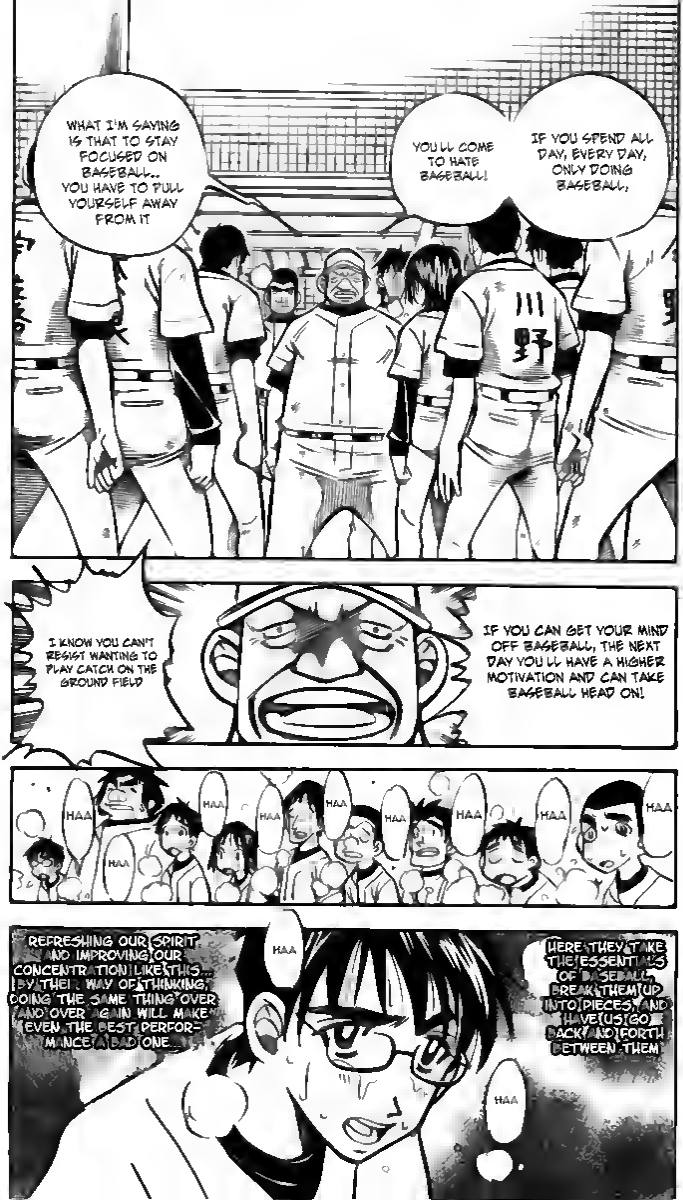
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

IT'S OUR FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE AND YOU MADE IT THROUGH 3 AND 1/2 HOURS

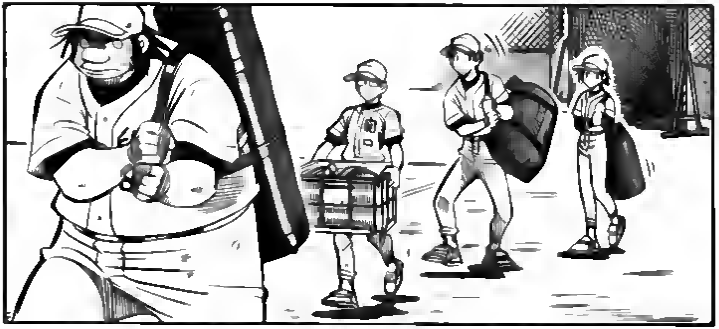

YOUR WORK SINCE 4 O CLOCK.

THAT BASE RUN NING AT THE END WAS TOUGH FOR US BUT IT'S OVER
REALLY ? 1/2 HOURS?
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA

AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL SETTING IT'S SIGHTS ON KOUSHIEN, YOU MAY THINK WE SPEND LITTLE TIME PRACTICING
BUT... KEEP IN MIND THAT THE TIME WE DO SPEND PRACTICING IS VERY INTENSIVE
OUR CLUB WILL BE PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR GRADES, EACH OF YOU!
WE'RE GOING TO TURN YOU INTO THE BEST THERE IS BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD!
GO BACK TO THE CLUBHOUSE AND STUDY!
ALL YOU 1ST YEARS


WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT TO STAY FOCUSED ON BASEBALL.. YOU HAVE TO PULL YOURSELF AWAY FROM IT
YOU'LL COME TO HATE BASEBALL
IF YOU SPEND ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, ONLY DOING BASEBALL,
川野
I KNOW YOU CAN'T RESIST WANTING TO PLAY CATCH ON THE GROUND FIELD
IF YOU CAN GET YOUR MIND OFF BASEBALL, THE NEXT DAY YOU'LL HAVE A HIGHER MOTIVATION AND CAN TAKE BASEBALL HEAD ON!
HAA
REFRESHING OUR SPIRIT AND IMPROVING OUR CONCENTRATION LIKE THIS... BY THEIR WAY OF THINKING, DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN WILL MAKE EVEN THE BEST PERFORMANCE A BAD ONE...
HERE THEY TAKE THE ESSENTIALS OF BASEBALL, BREAK THEM UP INTO PIECES, AND HAVE US GO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THEM

LEADING THE 2ND YEARS, TAMEN KIMO-O!
肝尾
LEADING THE 3RD YEARS, KAI SHIMA-O!
IT'S NOT BOASTING WHEN I SAY OUR CLUB HAS HAD TWO PEOPLE EXCEL THIS SCHOOL YEAR!
AT THE SAME TIME, EVEN THOUGH IT'S A 1ST YEAR, WE HAVE LEADER IN TEST SCORES....
HANA EGUCHI!
AND THAT'S EVEN WITH OUR STRINGENT ENTRANCE EXAMS!
I'LL BE WATCHING YOUR FIRST MIDTERM RESULTS
ALL RIGHT THAT'S IT FOR TODAY
HURRY ON BACK TO THE CLUB-HOUSE!
NO DETOURS!
THAT'S ALL!
THANKS!



MOE
HAA
MOE
HAA
A SURPRISE BUT THIS CLUB'S GOT SOME PRETTY SMART PEOPLE...
SO THE BASEBALL CLUB'S NOT GOING TO LET OUR GRADES SLIP.

SFX "PIKU-"
ピクッ!
HANA-CHAN "MOE"

RYCOLAA SCANLATIONS

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STRIPE BLUE

CHAPTER 10

BASEBALL CLUB BAPTISM

TRANSLATOR
CASTELLAN

RAW
GUIL666

EDITOR
ITERAY

QC
IKCUD

LOOKING FOR EDITORS, CLEANERS,
JAPANESE, CHINESE, KOREAN TRANSLATORS,
JAPANESE TRANSCRIBERS, RAW PROVIDERS

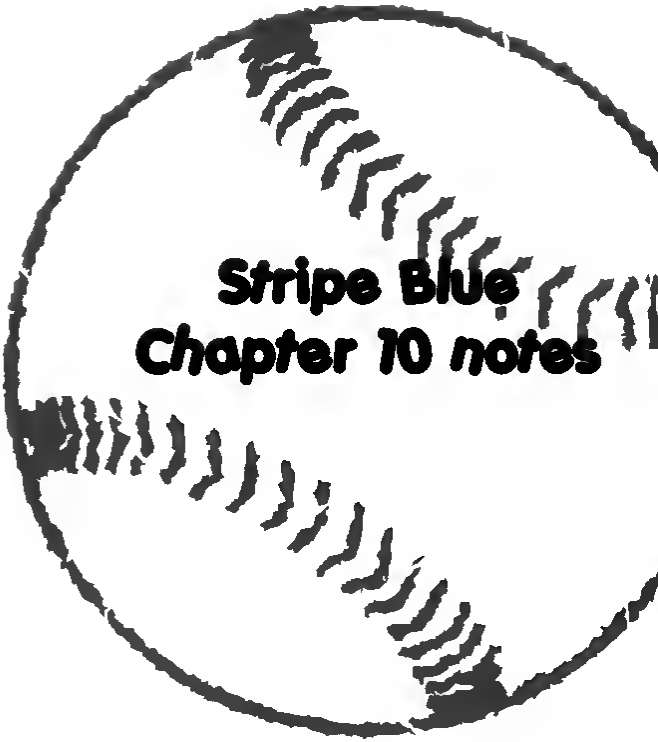
APPLY AT RYCOLAA.COM/COMMUNITY

SOME PROJECTS WE NEED TRANSLATORS FOR

Miss Wizard
Gamble Fish
Naive
Break Shot
81 Diver
Hetakoi
Bakuon Rettou
Happy Tennis
Shouta No Sushi
Ootiri Bomber
Libero Revolution
B-Type H-Style
Tojire No Hanachan
Suyojeon
Kanojo Wa Kannou Shousetsu Ka

ALSO OPEN TO PROJECTS THAT THE TRANSLATOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED



PRE-CHAPTER POINTS:

1. AKIHABARA IN JAPAN IS THE LAND OF THE "OTAKU", WHICH CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A FETISHIST DRINKS LIKE ICE COFFEE, AND THE FACT THE NAMES ARE REVERSED

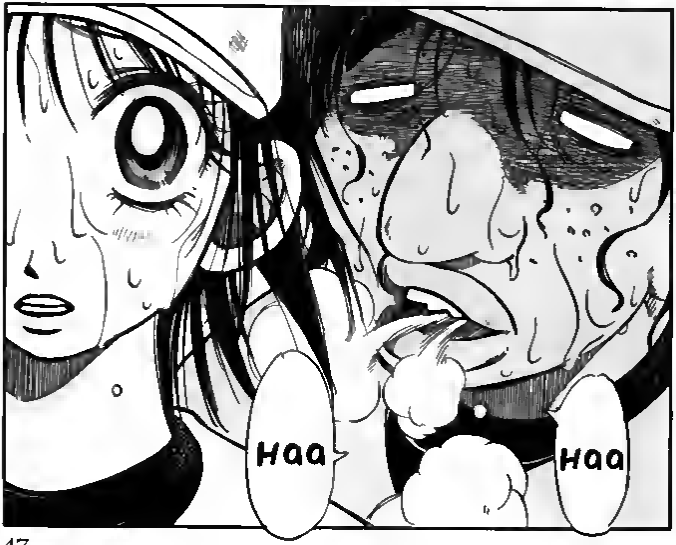
2. *MOE* (PRONOUNCED MO-EH) HAS A COUPLE OF MEANINGS BUT HERE IT'S SHORT FOR "I HAVE A PSYCHOTIC CRUSH". THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE THE MEANING HERE IS WHY HANA-CHAN ISN'T COMPLETELY FREAKING OUT (JUST MOSTLY).

3. SENPAI IS AN UPPERCLASSMAN, AND THE KOUHAI (UNDERCLASSMEN) ARE SUPPOSED TO OBEY AND RESPECT THE SENPAIS. (THIS WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT IN CHAPTER 4.)

4. IN JAPAN, ICE COFFEE AND ICE FRAPPUCCINO ARE AS COMMON AS ICED TEA IS IN U.S.

5. ALSO, IN JAPAN, A PERSON'S FAMILY NAME IS REVERSED FROM U.S. NAMES. IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AS THEY POKE FUN AT KIMO-O.

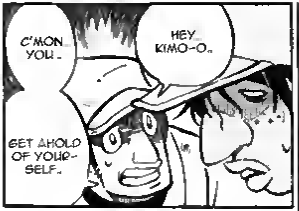
Baseball Club Baptism

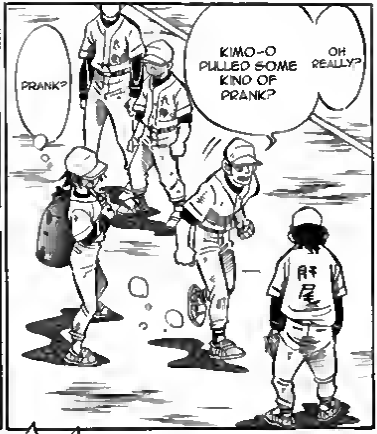


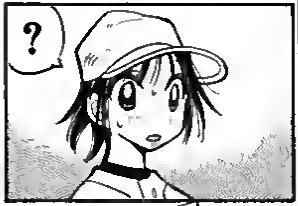
moe
moe
KYAAA!
nana-chan moe
SFX - *TAN*

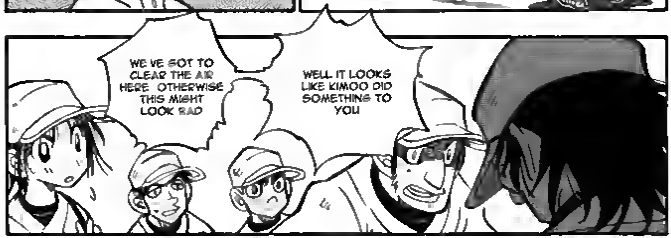
HEH, HEH, HEH... I'M SORRY, I JUST COULDN'T RESIST TEASING YOU!
©2006 NAOKI HIGASHIDA

I JUST TRIPPED
UM
NO
ESUCHI
SOMETHING UP?
HUH?
タタタタッ
WHA?
NO, NOT A THING
KIMO-O DID SOMETHING TO YOU, HUH?
HEY ESUCHI

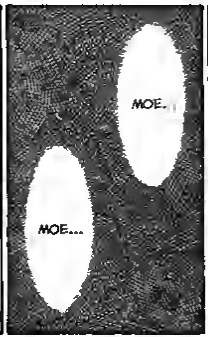

C'MON YOU..
HEY KIMO-O..
GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF..


PRANK?
KIMO-O PULLED SOME KIND OF PRANK?
OH REALLY?


?


WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR THE AIR HERE OTHERWISE THIS MIGHT LOOK BAD
WELL IT LOOKS LIKE KIMOO DID SOMETHING TO YOU

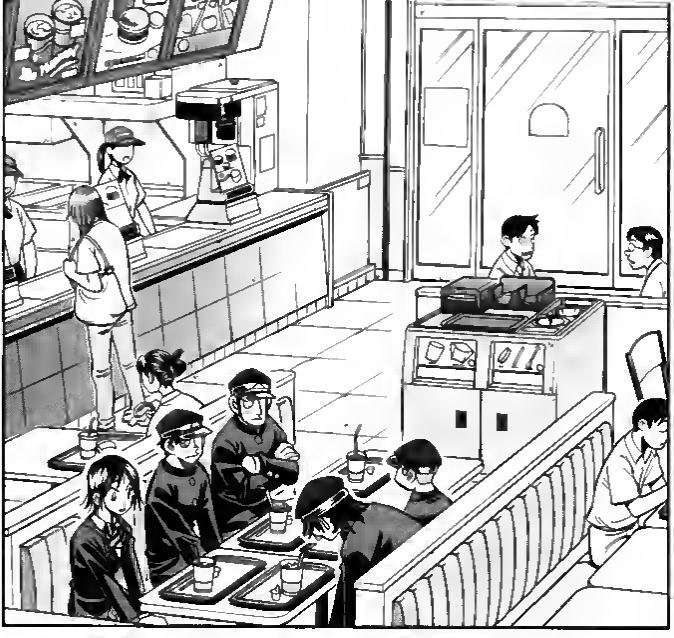
MO- "MOE" I'M SURE I IMAGINED HEARING IT, BUT...


MOE..
MOE....

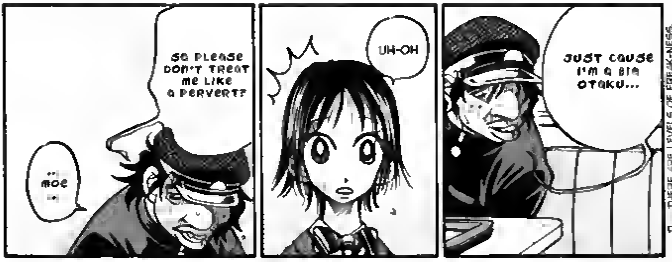
WE'RE GONNA MAKE THINGS CLEAR
"GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF"...?
JUST WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?..

TL - NOT AS IN A DATE NECESSARILY BUT LITERALLY GO OUT AND DO

EXCUSE ME?
YOU'LL GO OUT WITH US, RIGHT?
SINCE WE'RE GOING BACK..
EHUCHI
THIS GUY'S NOT SAYING NOTHING
IT'S NO USE
WE'RE GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON, FOR YOUR SAKE



THIS GUY'S A TOTAL PERVERT.. SO WATCH OUT BEUCH!
WHA?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?..



TL - THERE ARE LEVELS OF FREAK-NESS. #BNG AN OTAKU IS ALMOST A "NORMAL" FREAK AS OPPOSED TO THE REAL NUTJOBS

TL - Keroro Gunsou is apparently a real anime dubbed in English as "Sgt. Frog"

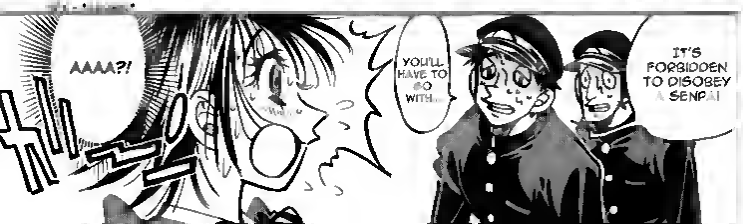
Y-YES...
BE-LIEVE
EH?
SFX - "KU"
SFX - "TATA"
WHAT IF..
THE MANY FACES OF KIMO-O...
NICE PITCH!
HE-EY!
SFX - "PON"
THE USUAL BASEBALL CLUB BE-HAVIOR...
WITH THINGS THAT LOOK LIKE THIS BEWARE OF WHAT IT'LL DO TO KIMO-O!

AND IF YOU TAKE YOUR HAND AND DO THIS
AND THEN IT MIGHT BECOME MOVING A HAND LIKE THIS
I DON'T DO THAT KIND OF THING
UTTER, COMPLETE...
EVEN IF I DON'T DO THAT KIND OF THING THOUGH?. IN MY FANTASIES?
COUGH
HEY, EGUCHI...
THIS IS AN ORDER!
TH.. TH-TH-TH-THIS GUY'S A..
MOE ♡

WHAT?!?!
moe ♡
NEXT TIME YOU AND ME'LL GO TO AN AKIHABARA MAID CAFE! ONE OF THE "MANY FUN FETISHES" YOU CAN INDULGE IN AKIHABARA...

HAA
A SENPAI'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE...
HAA
moe
IN A HIGH-SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB...

EGUCHI
...
ハル


AAAA?!
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO WITH...
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO DISOBEY A SENPAI

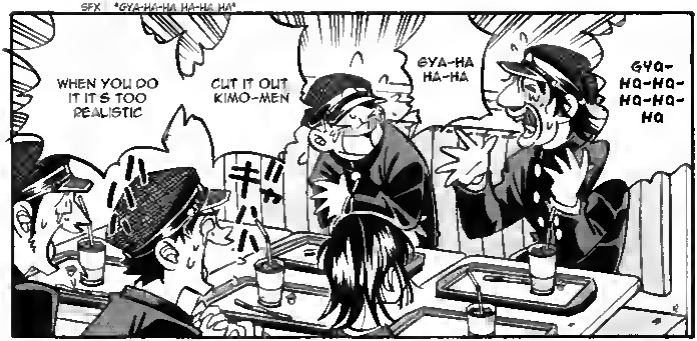
キャハハハハ
KU...
WH-?
SFX: KYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

GO...
HEE HEE HEE

GYA HA HA
GYA HA HA HA
SERIOUSLY EGUCHI
DON'T BE SO SCARED!
HA HA HA

LET'S GET THE "HANA-CHAN WELCOMING PARTY" STARTED!
YOU'RE AWESOME EGUCHI! TODAY'S ICE COFFEE IS ON US!
Whut...?!
WHOA... WE'VE GOT THAT HANA EGUCHI...
UP CLOSE SHE'S BEYOND CUTE!...
LOOKS A BIT THREATEN-ING
AND THIS FACE IS HIS "KIMO-OTI SUPER-SWEET"...
TOTAL, TOTAL INSTANT CRUSH!♡
I'VE BEEN LONGING FOR THIS SEMES-TER...

WE WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO STARTED UP A WELCOME PARTY FOR YOU!
LISTEN EGUCHI REMEMBER THIS!
AH!
SORRY!
DON'T MESS WITH MY REAL NAME
DON'T SAY "KIMO-OTA"!
BECAUSE WE'LL COME TO YOUR RESCUE
IF YOU FIND STUFF BOTHERING YOU, JUST TELL US WHATEVER IT IS
YEAH . .
HUH?
LITTLE SISTER... MOE... ♡
!
HUH?
LITTLE SISTER ...?
Y-YEAH ...
STARTING TODAY YOU'RE OUR LITTLE SISTER


SFX: *GYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA*
WHEN YOU DO IT IT'S TOO REALISTIC
CUT IT OUT KIMO-MEN
GYA-HA HA-HA
GYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA
キャハハ

KIMO-O-TAMEN... IS IT?
KIMO-MEN...?
SFX: *GA-*
LIKE I SAID DON'T EVEN TOUCH MY REEL NAME!
HEY!
AH!
SORRY!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO IN THIS KINDA PLACE?!
HEY! YOU!
ACK

KAI-SAN
SENPAI
AH!

WELL HURRY UP AND GET ON BACK!

YES?
MAKING A QUICK SIDE TRIP IS WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE "GOING STRAIGHT BACK"?
I-- I'M SORRY

SORRY!
YES SIR!

SFX - "TA TA TA TA"
タ タ タ タ
WHOA, HOLD ON, EGUCHI!
THANKS.
THANKS?
SO PLEASE EXCUSE US!
SFX - "BIKI"
WHA?!
IF YOU PLEASE
ICE FRAPPUCCINO
SURE
EGUCHI
SIT RIGHT HERE...
Y-YESSIR
.....
SFX - "TON"

SFX - "DON"
WELL THEN LET'S GET THE "NEW MEMBER PARTY" STARTED..
I AGREE!
WHA?
GOOD

Y-YESSIR
WHA?
OVER YOUR WHOLE LIFETIME, DO NOT FORGET THE DEBT OF TODAY'S FRAPPUCCINO
HEY EGUCHI
AS THE CAPTAIN OF THIS TEAM, I WILL PROTECT YOU ♡
NO MATTER WHAT THE CHIEF SAYS, OR THE COACH, OR EVEN THE DIRECTOR...
CHECK WITH US FIRST
EGUCHI
STARTING TODAY YOU'RE OUR LITTLE SISTER...
SFX - "GYA-HA-HA"
CUT IT OUT THAT HURT'S
THE TEAM CAPTAIN'S A PERV..!
AH! YOU SLY DOG YOU!
ANYWAY, EGUCHI..
SFX - "POWAN"
LITTLE SISTER... MOE...
LITTLE SISTER ?
EH?

KAI! YOU ALREADY HAVE SUCH A CUTE SISTER!
SFX: "GYA-HA HA HA!"
YOU IDIOT! NOBODY COULD FALL FOR THAT GIRL!
MY HANA...
IS BEING HIT ON...BY THE BASEBALL CLUB SENIORS...
HEY EGUCHI, SERVE US
OH NO
NO
HEY EGUCHI YOU GOT A GUY ALREADY?!
SO THIS IS "MAKING A QUICK SIDE TRIP" IN THE BASEBALL CLUB...

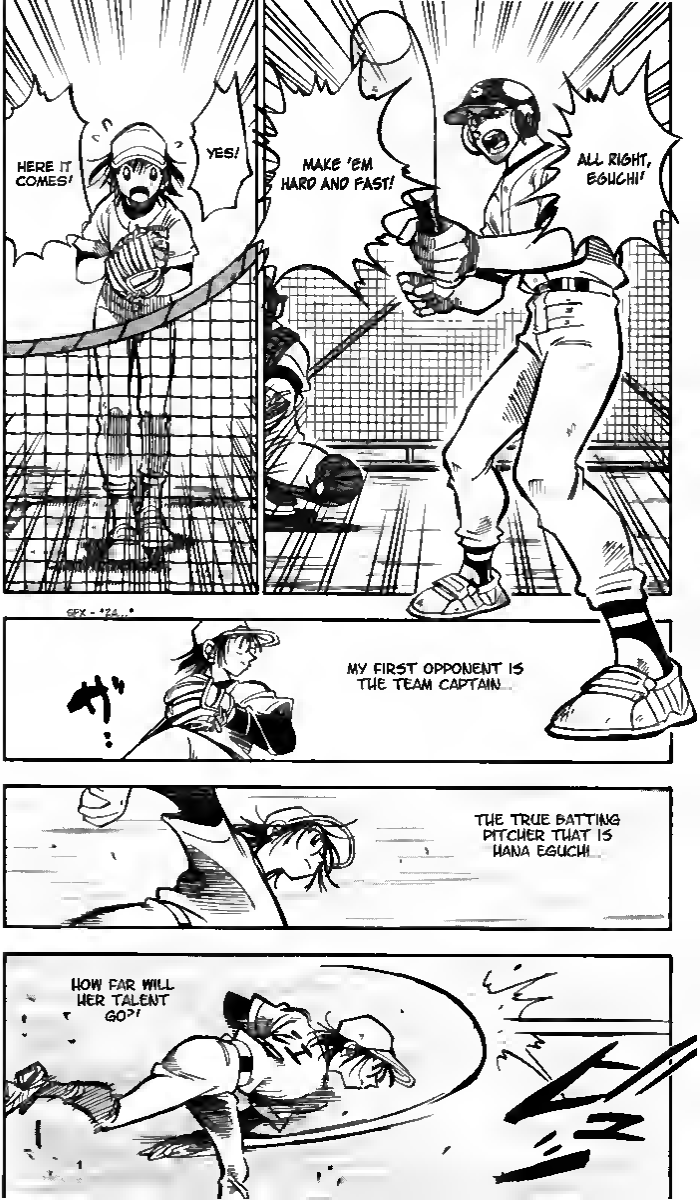
WHILE YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE BASEBALL CLUB, YOU'LL STAY AWAY FROM GUYS!
HANA EGUCHI!!!
HIC
GYA-HA-HA-HA

SFX - "GYA HAHA HA"
KAI'S GOTTEN DRUNK OFF OF ICE COFFEE!
McCurley

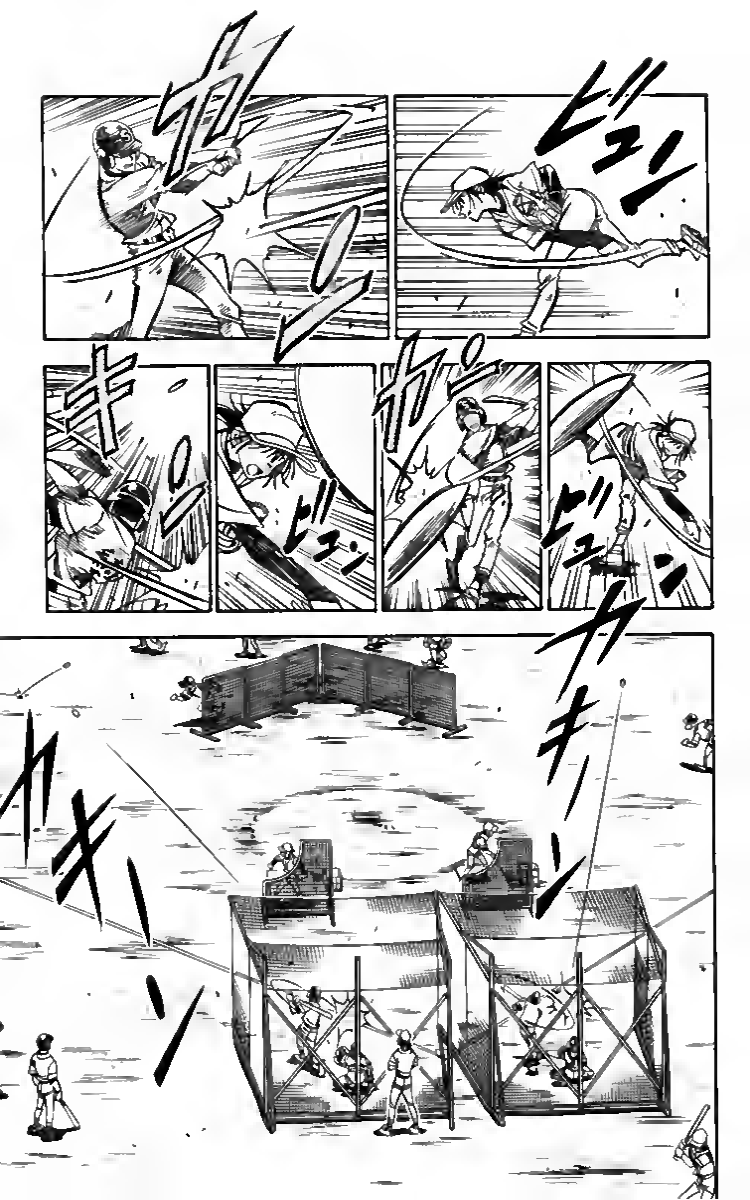
SFX - "KAKI N"
SFX - "KAKI N"
OKAY! SOUND OFF!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!
AAAAHHH
C'MON, LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!
カキーン
カキーン
LOOK ALIVE!
YELL IT OUT! LOUDER!
五軍
緑青
OKAY EGUCHI GO GET 'EM!
YESSIR!
ポン

SFX: "PA"
COACH TOYAMA, I'M YOUR RELIEF
Ah, it's Eguchi
Give 'em hell
YESSIR!
FINALLY, MY FIRST REAL ACTION AS A BATTING PITCHER!
.....

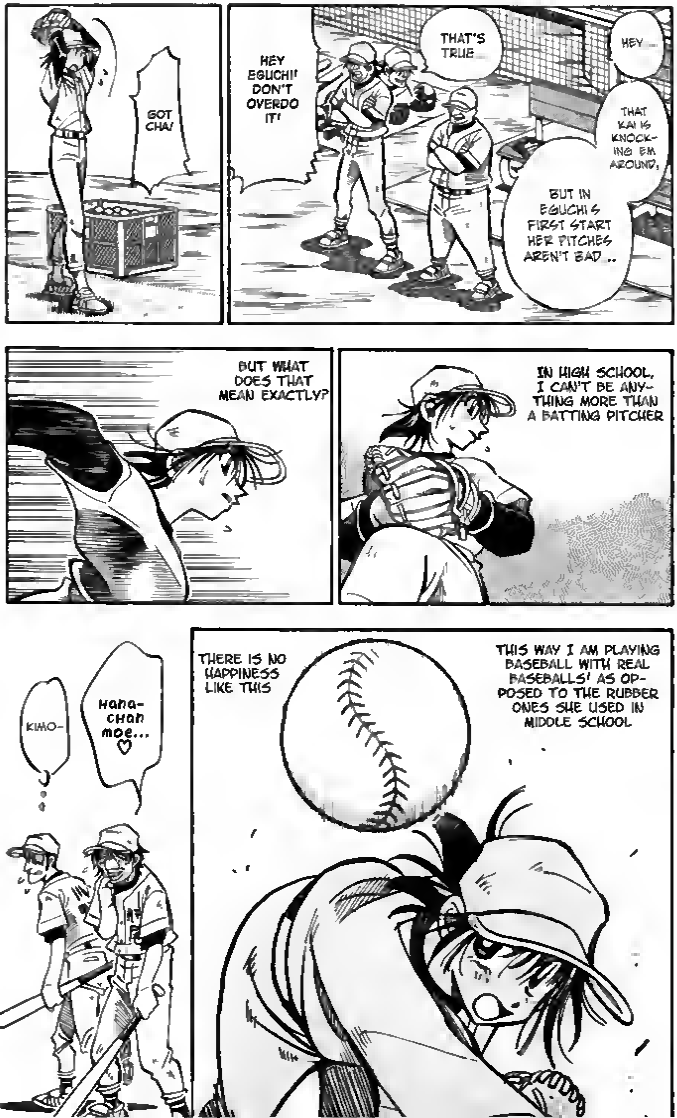

HERE IT COMES!
YES!
MAKE 'EM HARD AND FAST!
ALL RIGHT, EGUCHI!
SFX - *ZA...*
MY FIRST OPPONENT IS THE TEAM CAPTAIN...
THE TRUE BATTING PITCHER THAT IS HANA EGUCHI...
HOW FAR WILL HER TALENT GO?!

SFX - *BYUN*
SFX - *KIN*
SFX - *BYUN*
SFX - *KIN*
SFX - *KIN*
SFX - *BYUN*


ビュン
ビュン
ビュン
ビュン
キーン
キーン

HEY EGUCHI!!!
JUST WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS SEMESTER?!
IF YOU THROW THAT KIND OF PITCH IT'S NOT REALLY PRACTICE!
IF HE JUST WANTS THIS OVER AND OVER...
TAKE ...
YOU ...
THIS ...
SFX - "RUN"

YEAH!
THAT'S THE PITCH!
HE FANNED ON THAT ONE..
WHOA!
THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET OUT OF YOU..
SFX - *CHIRA*
NOT YET! ALMOST THERE!


GOT CHA!
HEY EGUCHI! DON'T OVERDO IT!
THAT'S TRUE...
HEY...
THAT KAI IS KNOCKING EM AROUND,
BUT IN EGUCHI'S FIRST START HER PITCHES AREN'T BAD...
BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?
IN HIGH SCHOOL, I CAN'T BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A BATTING PITCHER
KIHO-
HANA-CHAN MOE...♡
THERE IS NO HAPPINESS LIKE THIS
THIS WAY I AM PLAYING BASEBALL WITH REAL BASEBALLS! AS OPPOSED TO THE RUBBER ONES SHE USED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

BULLPEN
SFX: "PASHI-N"
OKAY ABO THAT WAS A NICE THROW

LET ME CATCH SOME OF ARO'S PITCHES...
SEKI-GUCHI
!

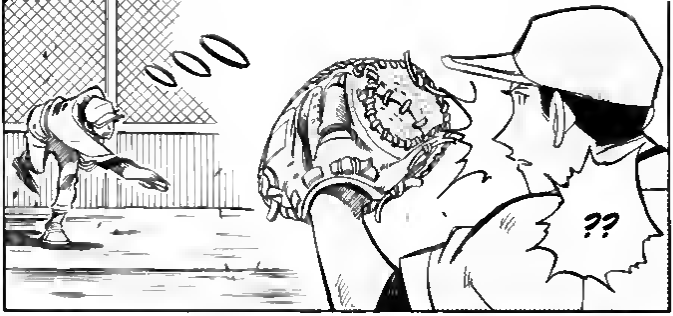
YES SIR

CAPTAIN...
.....
.....

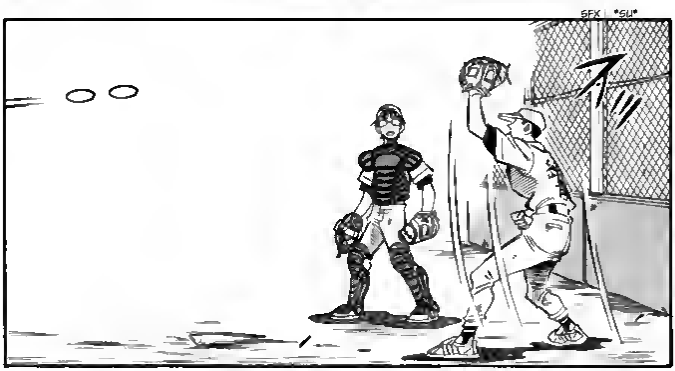
PUT A GLOVE ON THE LEFT HAND
NO THAT'S WRONG!

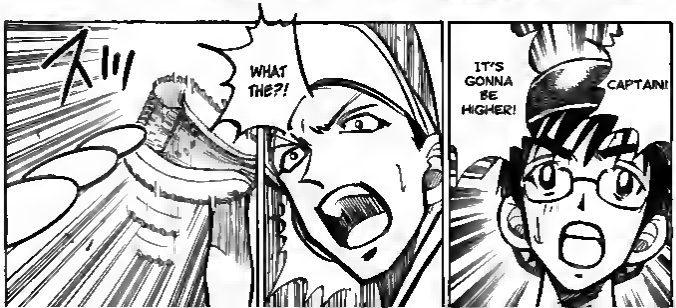
HERE IT COMES
H

SFX - *SLIPO*
OKAY.
UM.
RIGHT HANDED?
!
YESSIR
WHAT I'M INTERESTED IN NOW IS YOUR RIGHT'S SPEED
YOUR LEFT HAS AWESOME CONTROL I GET IT
ビュオオ


??

THE BALL'S ON THE HIGH SIDE
BUT
IT'S FAST!


SFX: "SU"


WHAT THE?!
IT'S GONNA BE HIGHER!
CAPTAIN!

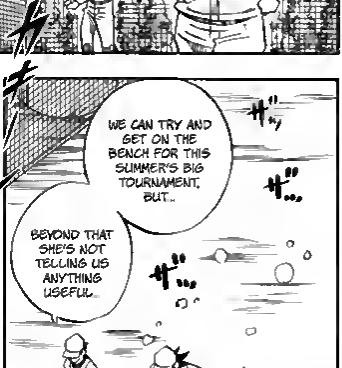
UM
トトッ
SORRY 'BOUT THAT!
S-

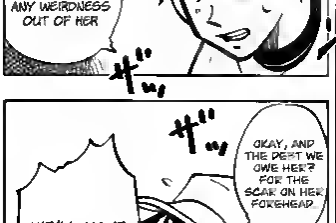
IT'S A CHANGE-OVER
AH!
SFX - *TTTTTT*
SO SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, CAPTAIN!
ME AND ABO'S GOTTA GO RUNNING NOW
HEY
IT WENT THE WAY YOU PREDICTED..
JUST LIKE YOU SAID
A'''
A'''

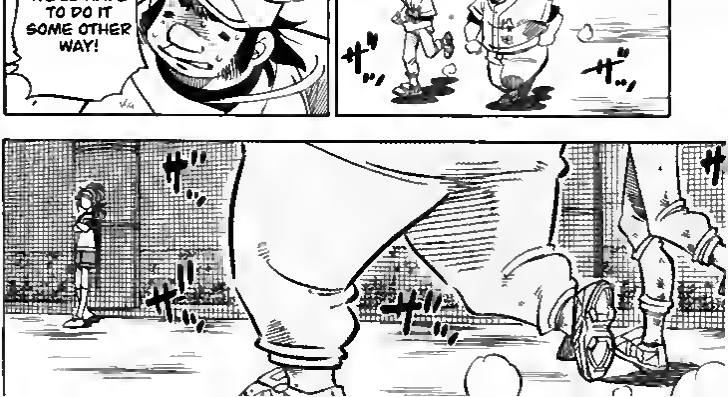
SORA-SAN'S "REQUEST"
EVEN IF WE DO ALL THIS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ABO?
You two are going to get on the bench this summer and drag the team down below a Koushien-level performance
BUT STILL...
YEAH...
I DON'T THINK SHE WAS REALLY BEING SERIOUS...

I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN JOKE ABOUT

AND DON'T YOU GO STIRRING UP ANY WEIRDNESS OUT OF HER

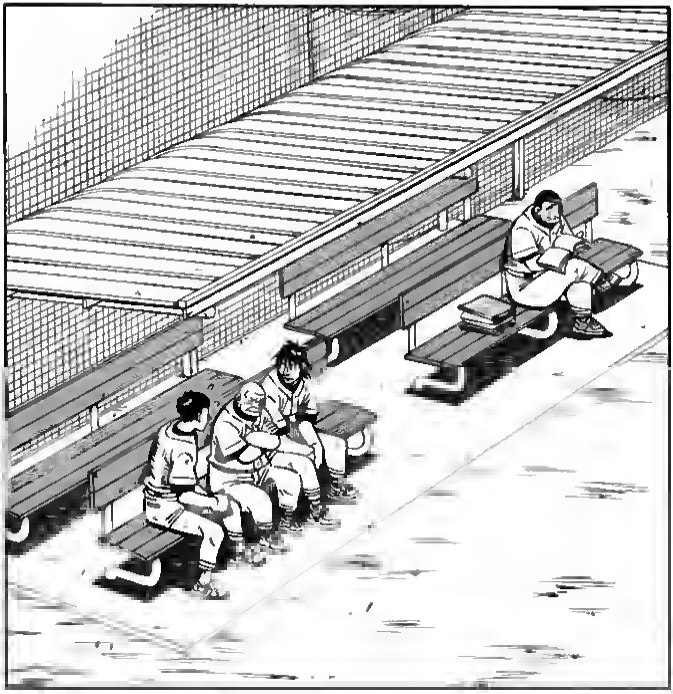

WE CAN TRY AND GET ON THE BENCH FOR THIS SUMMER'S BIG TOURNAMENT, BUT..
BEYOND THAT SHE'S NOT TELLING US ANYTHING USEFUL..


OKAY, AND THE REST WE OWE HER? FOR THE SCAR ON HER FOREHEAD
WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT SOME OTHER WAY!



"Hachi!"
"A~"
I'm not the kind of person who jokes around!

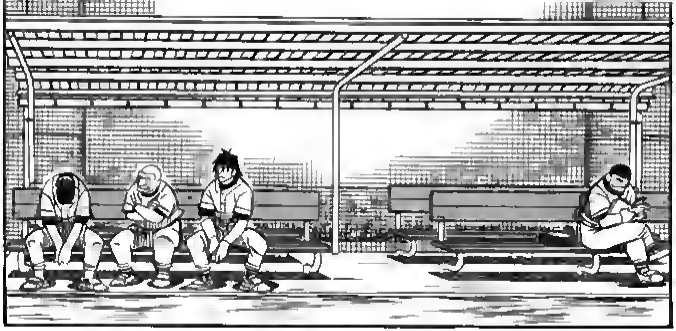
.....
SHOUJI NAOKI...
WE WILL NOW GIVE YOU THE RESULTS OF YESTERDAY'S TEST
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU
RECEIVE THE RESULT OF "REJECTION"
!

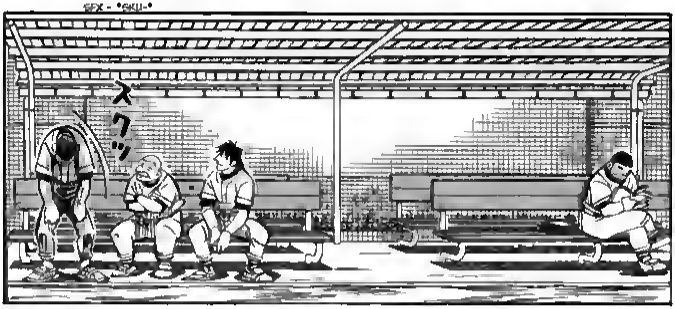


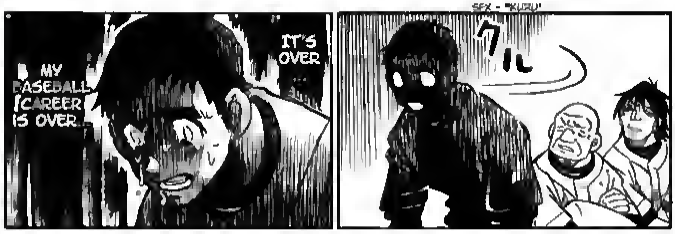
The "Third" Position

REJECTION
REJECTION
REJECTION
REJECTION
REJECTION

TO GIVE OUR MEMBERS THE HIGHEST TRAINING POSSIBLE WE STRICTLY LIMIT OUR NUMBERS
THIS IS OUR POLICY
YOU PASSED THE JUKEN JUST TO JOIN OUR BASEBALL TEAM, AND WE'RE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS, BUT...

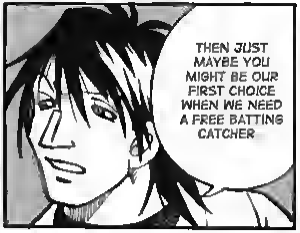



SFX - *SKU-*
スクッ

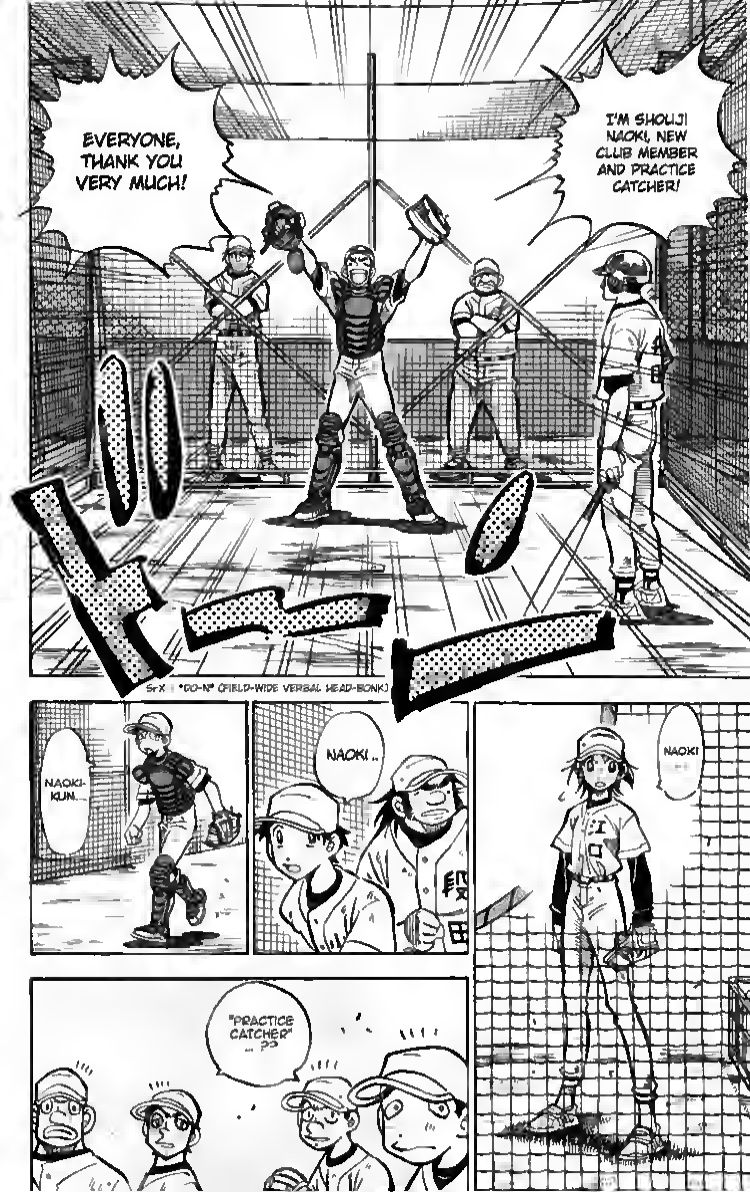

MY BASEBALL CAREER IS OVER...
IT'S OVER...
SFX - *KURU*
クル

!
WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING
HOLD ON A SEC...
HEY
MY BASEBALL CAREER

TOSS BATTING: WHERE A GUY STANDS A FEW FEET AWAY FROM A BATTER, LOBS IT OVER FOR AN EASY SWING... AND PRAYS HE DOESN'T GET NAILED



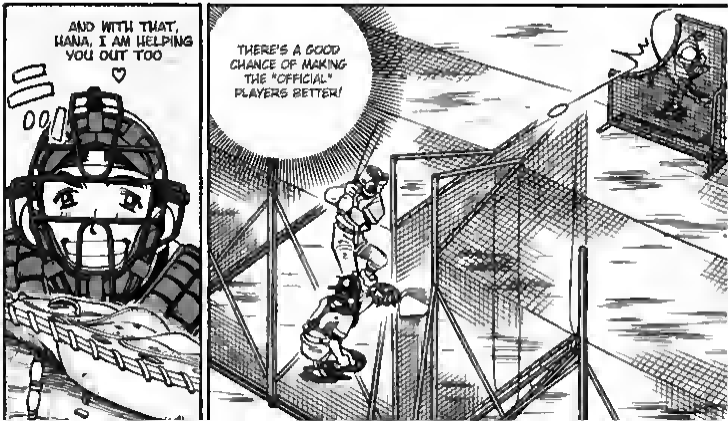
THANK YOU SIRS!
THAT WILL BE FINE IF YOU ALLOW ME TO JOIN THE BASEBALL CLUB
THIS IS AWESOME...
IT'S ALL GOOD...
SO... I CAN LET ONE PERSON IN THE CLUB... DIRECTOR?


EVERYONE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I'M SHOUJI NAOKI, NEW CLUB MEMBER AND PRACTICE CATCHER!
SFX: "GO-N" (FIELD-WIDE VERBAL HEAD-BONK)
NAOKI-KUN..
NAOKI..
NAOKI
"PRACTICE CATCHER" ...??

SO THAT GUY GOT IN AS A "PRACTICE CATCHER"...
ALL RIGHT... BRING IT ON EGUCHI!
NAOKI

カキ〜ン

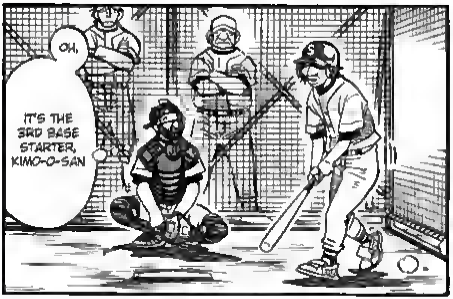
BECOMING A PRACTICE CATCHER MEANS "THERE'S STILL HOPE"
THIS GUY IF HE HITS I'LL SHOUT IT OUT LOUD
NICE SWING THERE!
ALL RIGHT!


AND WITH THAT, HANA, I AM HELPING YOU OUT TOO ♡
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF MAKING THE "OFFICIAL" PLAYERS BETTER!

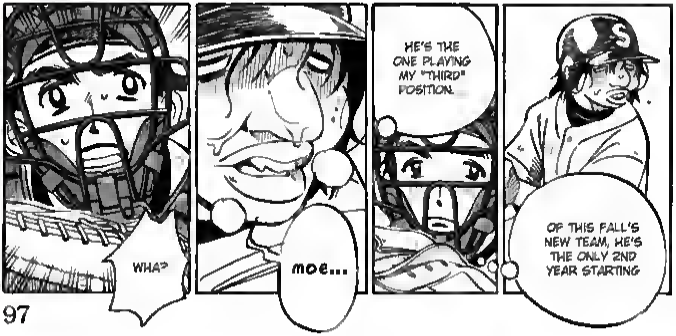
OZAWA...
I'M UP
ドッ
ヒュッ
I DIDN'T GET TO SAY PROPERLY THANK YOU...
FOR BEING SO EASY ON ME...
ガキン
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT... I DIDN'T GO EASY ON YOU...

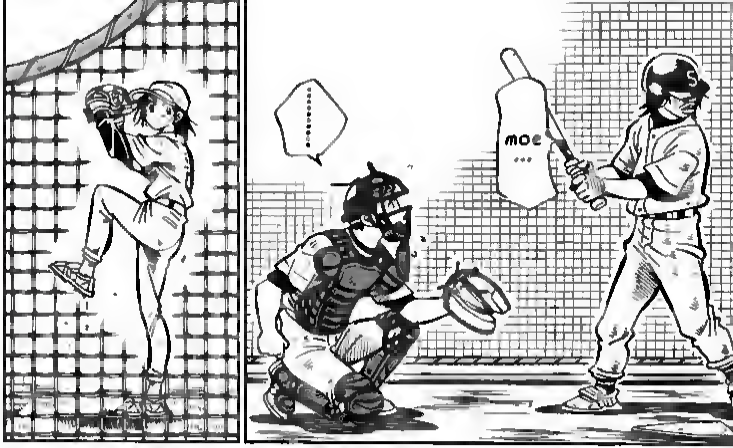
ボテ
ボテ
OH SHUT IT
WHEN IT COMES TO BATTING I AM BETTER THAN YOU
AT EGUCHI'S PITCHES...
DON'T SWING WILDLY...
ハシ
ヒュー

WE NEVER EXPECTED MUCH FROM ABO'S BATTING...
WELL...
URP...


OH,
IT'S THE 3RD BASE STARTER, KIMO-O-SAN

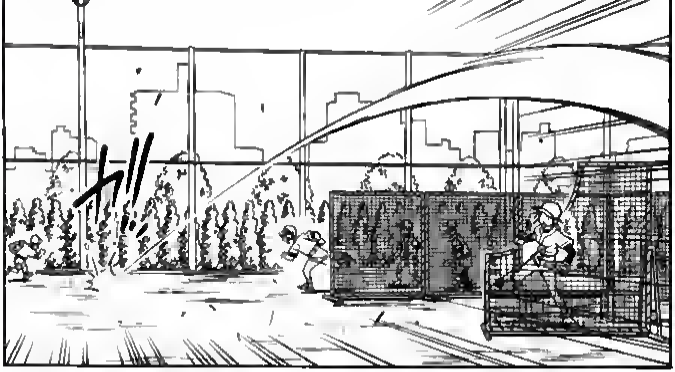
CHEESE


WHA?
moe...
HE'S THE ONE PLAYING MY "THIRD" POSITION.
OF THIS FALL'S NEW TEAM, HE'S THE ONLY 2ND YEAR STARTING


.....
moe
...

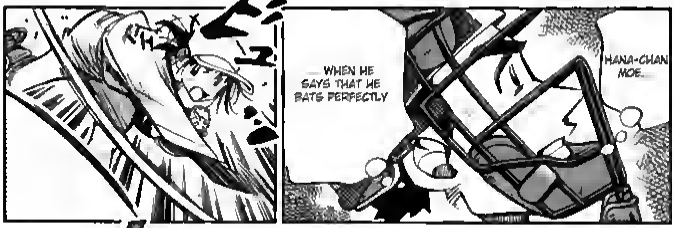
WHAT'D HE SAY?!
haa
haa
hana-chan moe... ♡

hana-chan moe...
haa
haa
カキーン
ビュッ

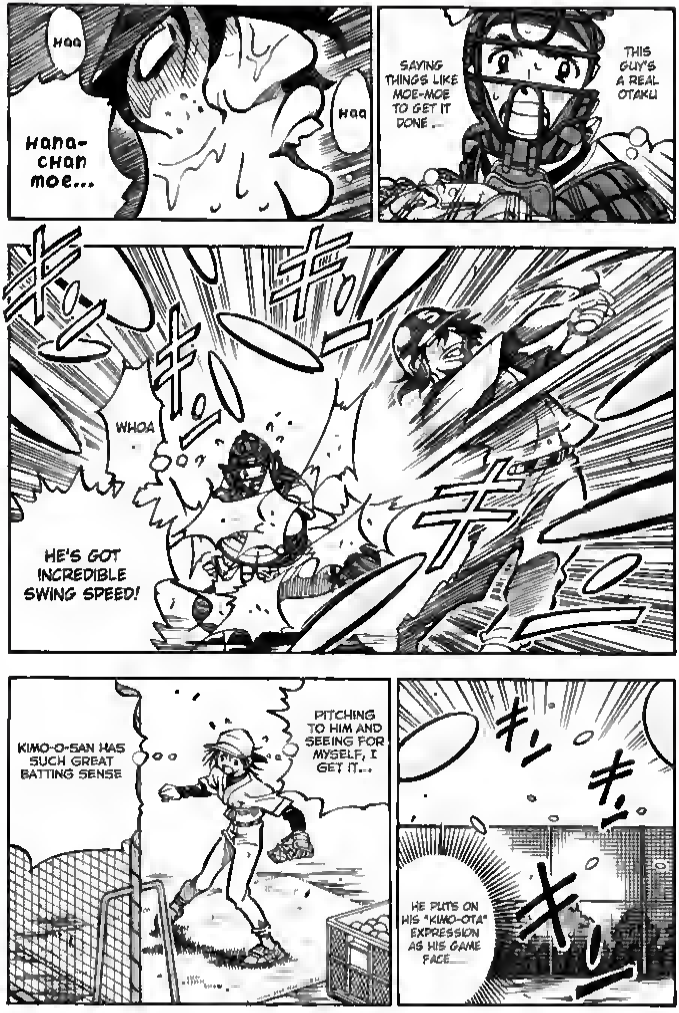

カキン

RIGHT BETWEEN LEFT AND CENTER FIELD...
EH-HEH...
HAA
HAA

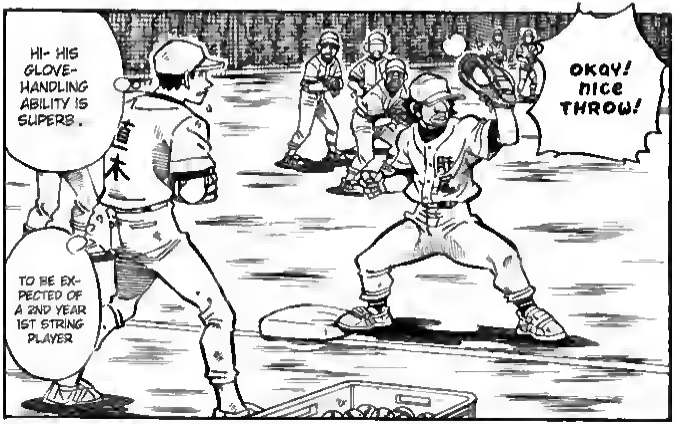
ER...

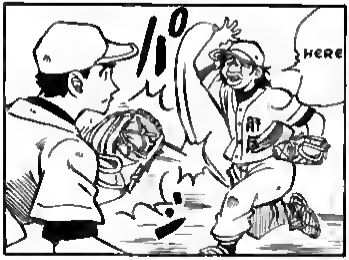

ビュ
...WHEN HE SAYS THAT HE BATS PERFECTLY
HANA-CHAN MOE...

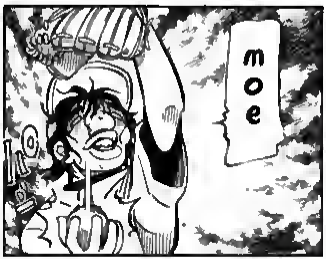
moe moe
キ
ビュッ
HAA
HAA
キ
Hana-chan moe...


HAA
HAA
Hana-chan moe...
SAYING THINGS LIKE MOE-MOE TO GET IT DONE...
THIS GUY'S A REAL OTAKU
WHOA
HE'S GOT INCREDIBLE SWING SPEED!
KIMO-O-SAN HAS SUCH GREAT BATTING SENSE
PITCHING TO HIM AND SEEING FOR MYSELF, I GET IT...
HE PUTS ON HIS "KIMO-OTA" EXPRESSION AS HIS GAME FACE...

A COMPLETE DEFENSE PRACTICE
BACK TO YOU!
moe
OKAY! NICE THROW!


HI- HIS GLOVE-HANDLING ABILITY IS SUPERB.
TO BE EXPECTED OF A 2ND YEAR 1ST STRING PLAYER
OKAY! NICE THROW!


HERE


MOE

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!

I CAN'T ADVANCE TO BEING A REGULAR CLUB MEMBER
IF I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT HIM OUT FOR THE 3RD BASE POSITION....

IT'S KIMO-
SH-
WHA?
BUT I'M TELLING YOU NOW...
EH, PERVERT BOY
ICK..
YOU JOINED THE BASEBALL CLUB CHASING AFTER EGUCHI, RIGHT?.....
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
DID THIS CRAZY OTAKU JUST GIVE ME A DECLARATION OF WAR?!
.....
WHEN IT COMES TO OUR BEING PERVERTS, I'LL NEVER LOSE TO YOU

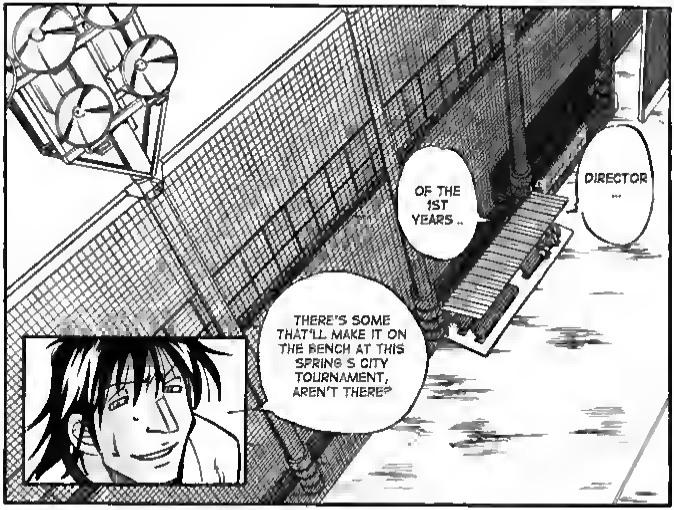
I PAID MY DEBT TO OZAWA...
HEH.
AND BASE-BALL...!
HIGH-SCHOOL LIFE!
OOOOO I'M GONNA BURST!
I'M TELLING YOU I DIDN'T DO LESS THAN USUAL...
BY "DEBT" YOU MEAN..
SFX - "HA-HA-HA"
STOO OOP!D
...RIGHT?
EH?
HUH?
AND LOVE... ♡

BUT I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING IT UP WHOLEHEARTEDLY
SO IT'S "PRACTICE CATCHER" FOR YOU... ...NAOKI

MMMM...
DIRECTOR...
SO HOW ARE THEY...? THIS YEAR'S 1ST YEARS...
BANTAROU OZAWA'S BROTHER..
WERE THERE SOME YOU WERE WATCHING?

I TOLD HIM OVER AND OVER TO NOT GO EASY ON NAOKI AND HE DID ANYWAY
NAOKI'S TEST...
HMM...
HE MIGHT HAVE REAL BASEBALL SENSE
YEAH
YOU MEAN ABO...

UM...
HOW WELL WOULD YOU PITCH IN FRONT OF ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS?
IF IT WAS YOU JUST NOW JOINING THE CLUB
THINK ABOUT IT, TAKA-NABE...
I FELT SOME "SENSE" THEN BECAUSE HE DID SO EASY ON HIM
THAT'S REAL SKILL THERE!
NO, IT'S THAT HE WAS ABLE TO DO IT!
HE ACTED IN THAT SITUATION FOR A FRIEND'S SAKE.
YOU'D SHOW THEM 100%... NO, 120% OF YOUR ABILITY...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD FOR ABO THINKING OF HIS FRIENDS...
I WAS IMPRESSED TO FIND THAT THERE WAS ALL THAT UNDERNEATH NAOKI'S ENTRANCE TEST
A STARTER'S SENSE IS HAVING THE SKILL TO KNOW WHEN TO GO EASY AND TO HAVE THE GUTS TO DO IT


DIRECTOR ...
OF THE 1ST YEARS ..
THERE'S SOME THAT'LL MAKE IT ON THE BENCH AT THIS SPRING S. CITY TOURNAMENT, AREN'T THERE?

OKAY IT'S TRUE BUT
WELL IT'S

ON THE BENCH FOR THE SPRING TOURNEY
IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO WEEKS AND YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED TRYING TO PUT 1ST YEARS
TAKANARE YOU'RE BEING SILLY

IF THERE WAS ONE PERSON...
BUT YOU KNOW

IF THERE WAS ONE PERSON ..?
THAT'S THE WAY OUR BALLCLUB DOES THINGS
NOT TELLING!
IF THE TAKANABE DOING THE TRAINING CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, THAT'S FINE.
PROMOTIONS AND LEADER-SHIP BY ME, THE DIRECTOR!
TRAINING BY THE CHIEF AND YOU COACHES

RYCOLAA SCANLATIONS

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STRIPE BLUE

CHAPTER 11

THE "THIRD" POSITION

TRANSLATOR
CASTELLAN

RAW
GUIL666

EDITOR
ITERAY

QC
IKCUD

LOOKING FOR EDITORS, CLEANERS,
JAPANESE, CHINESE, KOREAN TRANSLATORS,
JAPANESE TRANSCRIBERS, RAW PROVIDERS

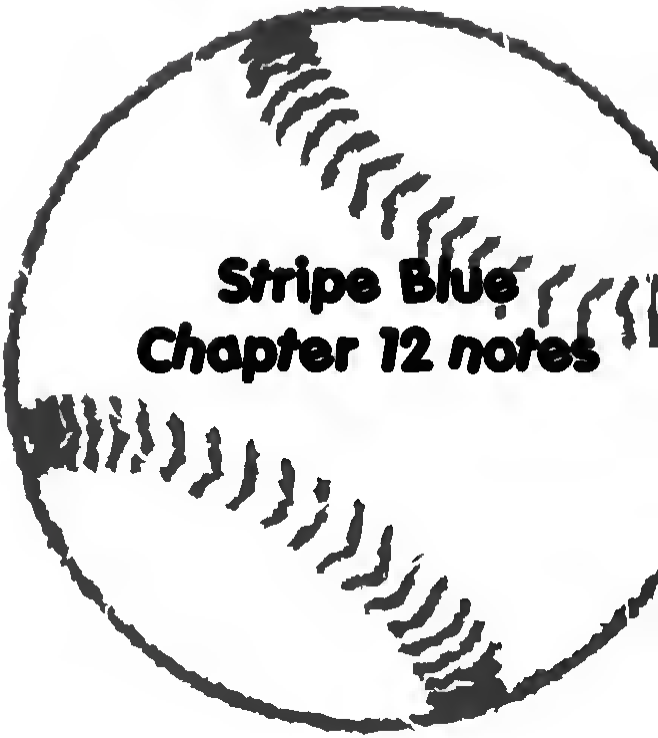
APPLY AT RYCOLAA.COM/COMMUNITY

SOME PROJECTS WE NEED TRANSLATORS FOR

Miss Wizard
Gamble Fish
Naive
Break Shot
81 Diver
Hetakoi
Bakuon Rettou
Happy Tennis
Shouta No Sushi
ootiri Bomber
Libero Revolution
B-Type H-Style
Toire No Hanachan
Suyojeon
Kanojo wa Kannou Shousetsu ka

ALSO OPEN TO PROJECTS THAT THE TRANSLATOR MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED



CHAPTER NOTES:

THE TERM USED FOR "HER HIGHNESS" IS "OJOU". IT TENDS TO REFER TO A DAUGHTER OF AN IMPORTANT FAMILY. GO READ OR WATCH GOKUSEN IF YOU WANT A BETTER EXAMPLE. USED IMPOLITELY, IT DOES CARRY A YAKUZA IMPLICATION.

"PRINCESS", AS USED, CAN REFER TO ROYAL PRINCESS OR A FAMILY'S DAUGHTER, AND CARRIES SOME LEVEL OF BOTH MEANINGS AT THE SAME TIME.

JAPAN HAS A STRONG CULTURAL COMPULSION AGAINST MINORS SMOKING AND DRINKING. THOSE WHO DO ARE CONSIDERED DELINQUENT AND DESTRUCTIVE TO SOCIETY.

IN THE FAMILY-FRIENDLY MANGA THAT IS STRIPE BLUE, IT IS PRESUMED TO BE AN INTRINSICALLY BAD THING

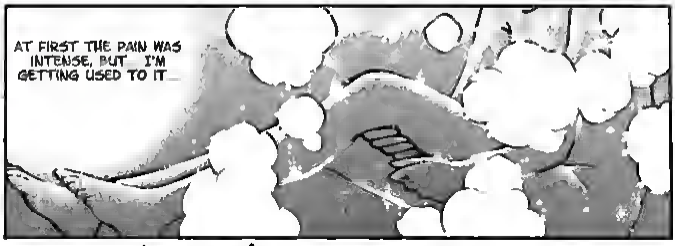
The New Glove

Ah
Sis is back
I'M HOME
Aw.. I lost
One pair
Three of a kind
YOU WANT A BATH FIRST OR DINNER?
HANA
OH
NORIPPE'S HERE
I came to return your notebook
BATH, DEFINITELY
Sis seems worn out for some reason

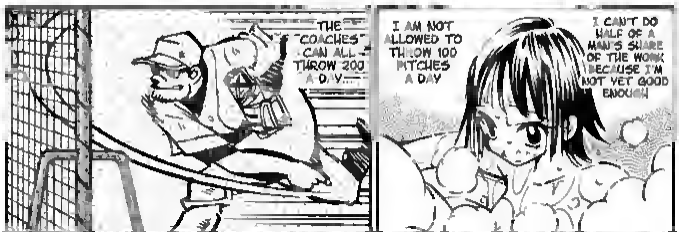
ドス
SIGH
ストン

バタン
カチャ
ピチャ
ピチャ
ピチャ
ピチャ
チャポ
ピチャ
ピチャ
ピチャ

TODAY WAS DAY 5 OF HIGHSCHOOL PRACTICE


AT FIRST THE PAIN WAS INTENSE, BUT I'M GETTING USED TO IT...

キ-ン
キ-ン
キン
ドコっ!!


THE "COACHES" CAN ALL THROW 200 A DAY...
I AM NOT ALLOWED TO THROW 100 PITCHES A DAY
I CAN'T DO HALF OF A MAN'S SHARE OF THE WORK BECAUSE I'M NOT YET GOOD ENOUGH

IS PLAYING REAL HIGH-SCHOOL BASEBALL.
LITTLE OL' ME.
.....
I'VE ALWAYS, ALWAYS PLAYED BASEBALL WITH ABO, SINCE WE WERE LITTLE KIDS
HA HA
MY BASEBALL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ABO
WE GOT INTO HIGHSCHOOL TOGETHER.
ACTUALLY I WAS UNEASY THE TIME LEADING UP TO GETTING IN THIS SCHOOL SIDE
I WONDER IF HIS "TWIN THROWING" WILL GO WELL
ABO IS WITH THE PITCHING CREW IN THE BULLPEN SO OFTEN, SO I HARDLY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM, BUT

FORTUNATELY THERE ARE A LOT OF NICE SENPAIS THEY'VE MADE IT EASY TO GET USED TO THE CLUB
NAOKI'S BEING A BATTING CATCHER IS A BIG HELP TOO
WHEN HE SAYS THIS OR THAT IT MAKES ME FEEL THE MOST AT EASE
ALL RIGHT, EGUCHI! BRING IT!
NAOKI
WELL, SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT ..
TO ME THIS IS A REALLY NICE BASE-BALL TEAM
THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW
THEY'RE BEING NICE TO ME BECAUSE I'M A GIRL...

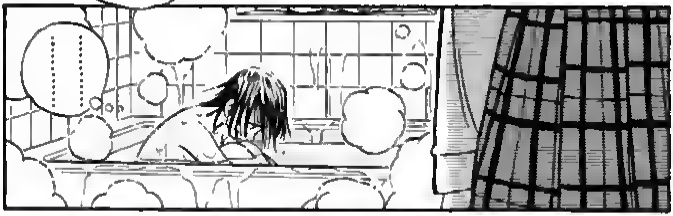
HANA-CHAN REALLY, REALLY LOVES BASEBALL. I DON'T QUITE GET IT, BUT...

HER EXPRESSION SAYS SHE'S GOT THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. DESPITE PEOPLE'S OBJECTIONS.

But didn't he choose this school just so he could play baseball?...
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T GET TO PLAY...
DUNNO. I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
LIKE HOW WILL I FEEL IF HE BECOMES AN OFFICIAL PLAYER?...
Are you okay with that?
And Naoki really became a practice catcher?

HOW MUCH SKILL DOES NAOKI HAVE JUST TO MAKE IT THIS FAR...?
HIS JOINING THE CLUB DOESN'T MEAN FOR SURE SOMETHING MORE WILL COME OF IT
WHATEVER ELSE MIGHT BE SAID, THE PLAYERS SCOUTED FOR THE TEAM ARE ALL QUITE SKILLED
HITTING AND FIELDING...
HE'S ONLY A 2ND YEAR BUT...
AND RIGHT HOW THE 1ST STRING THIRD BASEMAN IS REALLY TALENTED...
I DON'T THINK THE CHANCES ARE QUITE "O"...
STILL... I DON'T HAVE IT ALL FIGURED OUT YET, BUT...
KINDA YEAH
Somehow... You gotta feel sorry for Naoki...
Hana-chan moe...
KINDA WEIRD THOUGH

AS A GIRL, NO MATTER HOW GOOD I GET I CAN'T BE MORE THAN A BATTING PITCHER...
HEY ...
TALKING ABOUT NAOKI, YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM AREN'T YOU?
KINDA SUSPICIOUS...



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ィ

kyaa
NOR-I-SE
Who's the one pairing up with Naoki every day?
Who's the suspicious one?
kyaa
KYAA CUT IT OUT ALREADY!
Grrr? Now you're splashing again, Hana-chan!
KYAA KYAA
IS THAT MY FAULT?
Aaa! Now I'm soaked!

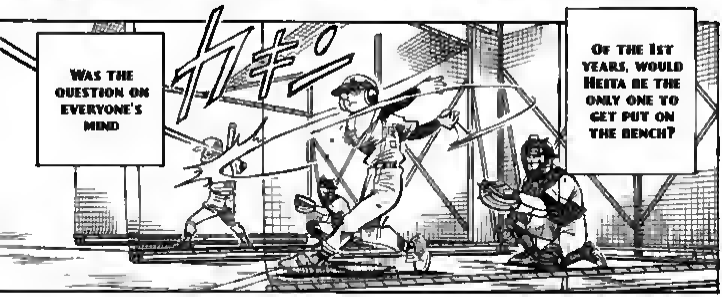
Quit playing with the water! Geez, you're high schoolers now...
S... Po... R's...
DON'T JOKE AROUND LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF NORIPPE
SHUU-ZOU-
BRA!!...
Shuuzoku-kun is just plain weird!

ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO!
PRAC-TICE GAME
ALL RIGHT! 2 BASES! A DOUBLE!

NICE HIT, SEKIGUCHI!
THAT HEITA'S SURE AWESOME
WE PUT SEKIGUCHI IN AS PINCH-HITTER AND HE NAILED ONE
MY FIRST AT BAT IN HIGH SCHOOL AND I GOT MY FIRST HIT

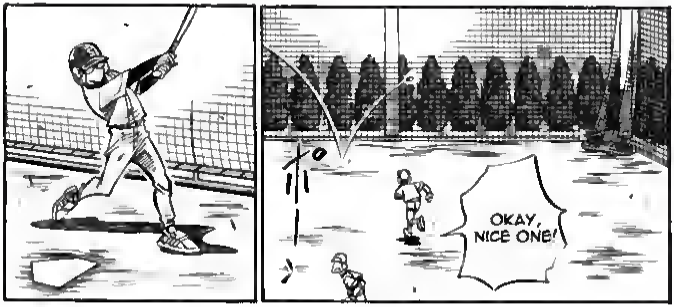
DID YOU MEAN THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SEKIGUCHI CAN MAKE IT ON THE BENCH?!
THAT A GUY JUST GETTING INTO HIGH SCHOOL WAS USED AS A PINCH HITTER... IS EXCEPTIONAL
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, DIREC-TOR...?
WITH THAT WE MOVE TO LATER EVENTS...
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
カキーン
I EVEN DO THE SCORE-KEEPING
What ...?

ハヴィ
Kept within the baseball club...

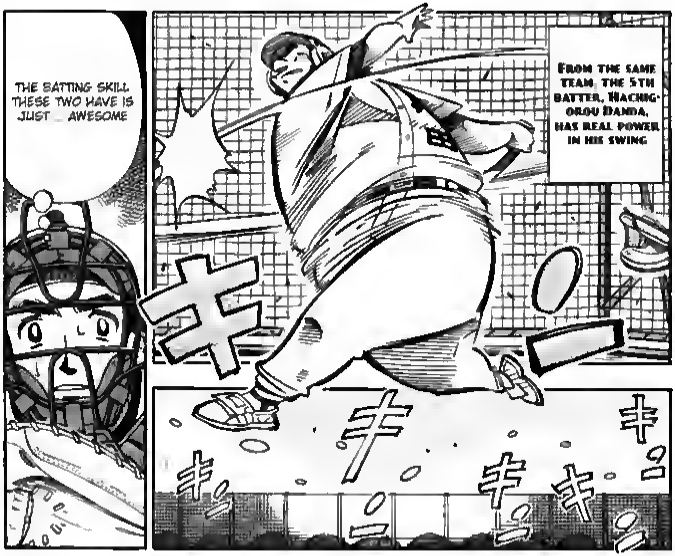

Was the question on everyone's mind
カキ
Of the 1st years, would Heita be the only one to get put on the bench?

Director...
A 1st year getting on the bench is spectacular accomplishment

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SEKIGUCHI'S CHANCES...?
FOR THE SPRING TOURNAMENT...
I'M STILL NOT SURE
THAT'S THE SYSTEM YOU'VE GOT WORKING NOW
SINCE THE PEOPLE WHO TRAIN THEM AND WHO CHOOSES WHO PLAYS ARE KEPT SEPARATE WE MAKE MORE ACCURATE DECISIONS
IT'LL BE OKAY IF I HOLD OFF TELLING YOU UNTIL THE DEADLINE, RIGHT?



Heita Sekiguchi showed just why he was the cleanup batter at the senior league big tournament


THE BATTING SKILL THESE TWO HAVE IS JUST... AWESOME
From the same team, the 5th batter, Hachigorou Banda, has real power in his swing

AS A BATTER I THINK HE CAN USE THAT FORM THOUGH
AS WE THOUGHT, DANDA DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A PITCHER'S FORM
HMM...
I THINK HE SCARES THE BALL OFF WITH HIS SWINGS
BUT, AS TO HACHIGOU'S PITCHING ABILITY...
ABO OZAWA'S PROGRESS SO FAR...

ゴ"
オオオ
ゴオオ
ドレイク

OZAWA IS GETTING A HANDLE ON HIS "TWIN FITCHING"
TAKANASE, I THINK WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT OZAWA IS RIGHT
BUT COMING INTO HIGH SCHOOL IT'S RATHER UNREFINED
RIGHT NOW IT'S STILL UNMOLDED CLAY...
HEY! TO THIRD!
THE ONES WHO WILL GET ON THE BENCH FOR THE SPRING TOURNAMENT WE CAN WORK ON
THE PROBLEM IS, OF THE 1ST YEARS, WILL SEKIGUCHI JOIN THE BENCH?
.....

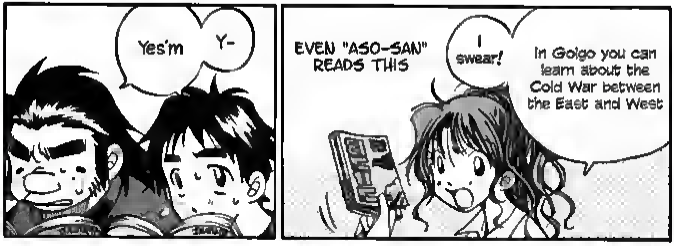
LATELY "HER HIGHNESS" HAS HAD HER "HENCH MEN", OZAWA AND DANDA ON A SHORT LEASH BUT...
YOU S'POSE SHE'S MAKING THEM PAY FOR HER FOREHEAD SCAR BY USING THEM LIKE LAP-DOGS...?
WAIT, WHAT? TO MAKE UP FOR THAT...
Ah, geez... "Hachi" you suck...
Switch with "A-"
GAME ZET
2F
1F
B1F

Yes'm
"Hachi" go buy me a juice
UM.. EXCUSE ME
Y-
Yes'm
Lunge
.....
AS YOU PLEASE
YES'M
All right! Let's do it!
Kyaa
Whoa
Yes
Yes
Okay
"A-" has better timing

SHE REALLY LIKES THIS GAME..
ドキドキ
SO SHE COULD MAKE US HELP HER IN THIS FIGHTING
"PRINCESS" HAS BEEN US FOLLOW HER AROUND...
とくとくとく
喫茶
Jun
COFFEE
ズッ
"Hachi!"
You suck at that game...

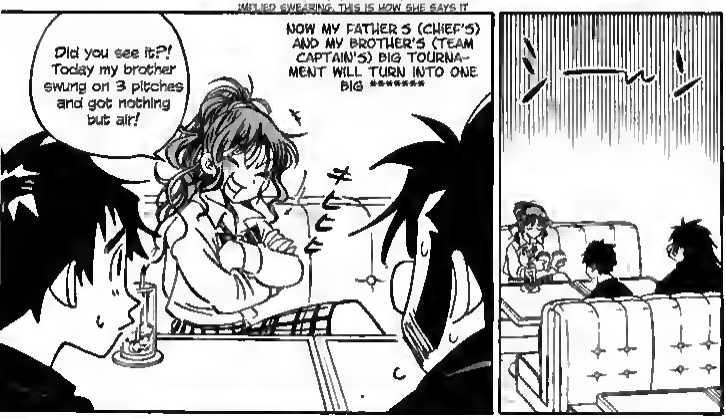
"A-" is at least a bit of help...
You are so impossibly bo-ring
I'm so very sorry
YES'M ...
Yes'm
Today it's volume 43
"Hachi" ...
PRINCESS, LOVES COMING TO THIS CAFE TO RE_D GO! GO!!

AND WE ARE FORCED
TO HANG OUT WITH THIS GIRL
"A-" you're on book 8 . "Hachi" is on #7
SO WE WIND UP GOING WITH HER...
BUT IT'S EMBARASSING FOR ONE GIRL TO COME READ BY HERSELF


Yes'm
Y-
EVEN "ASO-SAN" READS THIS
I swear!
In Goigo you can learn about the Cold War between the East and West

Because of this "present" from you, I don't have any friends...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS AT ALL... AND TILL NOW IF SHE WENT TO A MANGA CAFE, SHE HAD TO GO ALONE

TL'S NOTE: YES, THE PARENTHESES THE MELLED SWEARING. THIS IS HOW SHE SAYS IT


Did you see it?! Today my brother swung on 3 pitches and got nothing but air!
NOW MY FATHER'S (CHIEF'S) AND MY BROTHER'S (TEAM CAPTAIN'S) BIG TOURNAMENT WILL TURN INTO ONE BIG *******

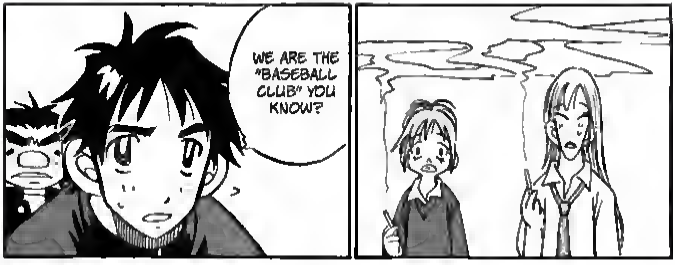
Maki... Yoko...
AH
IT'S SORA..
SO YOU'RE SORA'S SLAVES, HUH?
SLAVES?
WHO ARE THEY? THE TWO GUYS WITH YOU?
SORA.
They're a couple of kouhai from the club. Just kouhai
OH GREAT, NOW THEY'RE IN A 3-GIRL CHATTER-BOX FORMATION..
HOW SILLY
You know how it is...

Hm
You think?..
BUT DOESN'T THE LITTLE ONE LOOK KINDA COOL?..
THE BIG ONE LOOKS LIKE A GORILLA
HEY SORA
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, HACHIGOROU
Wh-?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT, AND...
THE SCAR PRINCESS HAS ON HER FOREHEAD..
YOU DON'T THINK THE SCAR IS STARTING TO FADE?
IF THINGS KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, THE DAY WILL COME WHEN THE SCAR WILL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY
Even if the scar vanishes completely, we will still have a debt to her
!
WELL, I GUESS SO BUT?
OH SH--
SORA, YOU WANT ONE?
カチ

Thanks
SMOKING STINKS...
SM-
NO WAY
THAT'S AWFUL

Hey Abo...
Stop her...?!
WE BETTER STOP HER
Whoa...
HEY SENPAI... SMOKING IS...
SMOKING IS REALLY BAD
Hm?

"A-"...
What'd you say...?
PLEASE PUT IT OUT
What?
PLEASE STOP
YOUR FRIENDS TOO...
I'M VERY SORRY FOR THIS


WE ARE THE "BASEBALL CLUB" YOU KNOW?

I WILL...
TAKE CARE OF THE MESS

PL-
PLEASE MOVE YOUR FOOT
What do you know?
Who do you think you're talking to like that...
AH!
AH!
OOF
ACK
SENPAI, PLEASE JUST DROP THE CIGARETTE

Ooo
UH
Eh??
What year are you again?!
Just who do you
Think you are giving me a lecture..
You think you can stand up to me?!
IT'S SADIS-TIC
OH NO
SORA!!
Just try it and see

uh-
P-
PRIN-CESS..
YOU DOING THIS KIND OF THING.. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?
Oh it's hit the fan now!!
What, you dare stand up to me...?!

PRINCESS, DO YOU REALLY THINK WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS RIGHT?!

DON'T YOU GO TELLING ME WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S WRONG!

THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHO'S ABOVE OR BELOW WHO!
THE UNDER-CLASSMEN DO NOT CONTRADICT THE UPPERCLASS-MEN

For the love of God stop...
Abo... Stop... Stop it

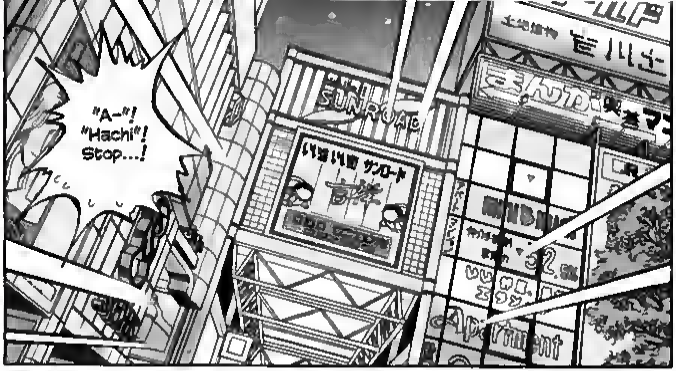
IF YOU'RE SMOKING, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE AN UPPERCLASSMAN, YOU HAVE TO BE STOPPED

You're not in middle school anymore! In high school we have rules!
Abo!

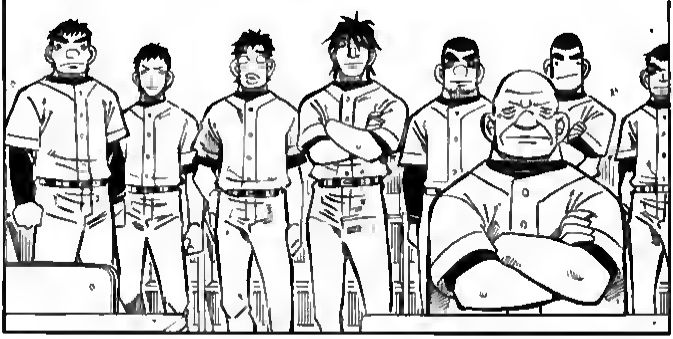
You gonna hit me...?
I'm...
GONNA HIT YOU...
Wh-What're you gonna do with that hand?
What'd you just...
I'M NOT WRONG
SOMEONE WHO'S GONE HYSTERICAL SAYING CRAZY THINGS...
NEED TO GET SLAPPED...
OBVI-OUS-LY

ULP
So the one who gave me this scar is gonna go and slap me around some more?
!
HEY CUT IT OUT!
SORA AAA
Try it and see!

Leggo you guys...
YOU GUYS GET OUT OF HERE
Let go of me!
Abo let's go
Hey "A.-"! Don't you run away from me!
Pl- Please excuse us!
Don't you run off!


"A-"!
"Hachi"!
Stop...!
SUNROAD

WHAT'D YOU DO?
HEY ABO?
EH?
THE NEXT DAY
GET OVER TO THE CLUBHOUSE
THE CAPTAIN'S CALLING FOR YOU
THE SIGN SAYS: SHINKO PRIVATE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



HE DIDN'T PUT HIM THERE JUST TO STAY BENCHED...
SURE ENOUGH, THE DIRECTOR PUT SEKIGUCHI ON THE BENCH...

THE BIG SPRING TOURNAMENT WILL BE HIS "COMING OUT" PARTY
IT'S TO SHOW HIM OFF AT THE GAME!

Is this about yesterday...?
THE... TEAM CAPTAIN..?

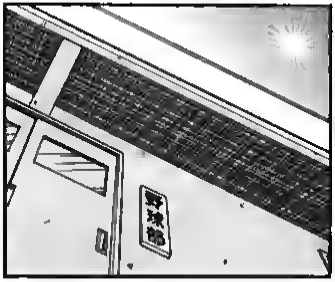
DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

Maybe the captain heard something?
WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING HAPPEN?
タタタ
UM.. I...

トン トン
野球部

ER,
EXCUSE ME

OH
OZAWA


野球部

野球
ガラ
THE CAPTAIN LEFT
AH
野球部
ABO
HOW WAS IT? WHAT'S HE SAY?

PRINCESS DOESN'T TALK TO HER BROTHER
THE CAPTAIN PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW
IT WASN'T ABOUT YESTERDAY...
HM?
I GOT THIS
So what was it...?
What the!
What is this?! This is...
Why'd he give this to Abo...
A FIRST-MITT?

The net is right in the middle!
This isn't a first-mitt!
With this... You can wear it either way...
スポ
YES
A TWIN-THROWER'S GLOVE
HACHIGOROU LEMME SEE THAT FOR A MINUTE
スポ
スポ

I DON'T THINK
HE DIDN'T SELL IT
He... he had this for sale...?
BEING ABLE TO DO RIGHT AND LEFT IS AWESOME.
THERE'S NO LOGO...
YUP
But there's no logo on it...
Eh?
WHERE'S IT SAY IT WAS MADE?
IT'S CUSTOM MADE?
Can an amateur make something like this?
How long had he been working on it?
BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING THE CAPTAIN MADE...
WHA?
This?
SO HE SPENT A HALF YEAR ON IT...
FROM THE DAY I DECLARED SHIMA-O AS MY HIGH SCHOOL...

IN OUR AREA THERE'S A GLOVE CRAFTER...
WHAT THE....??

.....
I EXPLAINED MY IDEA TO HIM...
AFTER THAT, WITH A BIT OF HELP I PUT IT ALL TOGETHER
ALL HE CREATED FOR ME WAS THE PATTERN...

YOU CAN'T TAKE TWO GLOVE TO THE MOUND WITH YOU, YOU KNOW

M-MAYBE
HE PLACES HIS TRUST IN TAKANABE'S SCOUTING...
AND BELIEVES IN HOW MUCH "BANTAROU OZAWA'S LITTLE BROTHER" IS WORTH...
WH- WHY DID HE...
.. MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS, JUST FOR MY SAKE?
I SWEAR, I JUST DON'T GET IT!
BUT HE SAW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN ME AND HIS SISTER!
OZAWA! DANDA! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE ..
HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF THE CHIEF OF THE FAMILY BECAUSE HE IS THE CAPTAIN OF THE CLUB
THE GUY THINKS OF THE BASEBALL CLUB AS A FAMILY...
THE TEAM CAPTAIN UNDERSTOOD AFTER HE THOUGHT IT OVER...
I-- I THINK..

HE TAKES GOOD CARE OF PEOPLE
HE TEACHES THOSE BELOW HIM WITH UNNECESSARY CONSIDERATION
UNDERNEATH HE IS ATTENTIVE TO HIS KOUHAI
ON THE SURFACE HE LOOKS SCARY, BUT...
NOT AT ALL
AREN'T ALL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CLUB TEAM CAPTAINS LIKE THIS ..?
I D- I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...
HE ACCEPTED YOU AS AN "OUTSTANDING KOUHAI"...
I BET FROM THE MOMENT YOU DECLARED YOU WOULD JOIN THE CLUB
1-A
NAOKI!
THOUGH IT'S BAD TO SAY ..
THE SISTER HAS A VERY DIFFERENT PERSONALITY...
YOU COULD LOOK ALL OVER JAPAN AND YOU WON'T FIND ANOTHER
A TEAM CAPTAIN LIKE THIS

I'M GONNA MAKE IT IN THIS BASEBALL CLUB! I'M GONNA SUCCEED!
WHAT?
OH, UH, YEAH
I KNOW YOU'LL DO WELL
YOU'VE GOTTA BECOME AN OFFICIAL PLAYER TOO!
I'M...
I'LL BE AN OFFICIAL PLAYER WITHOUT YOUR SAY SO
YOU JUST GOTTA, NAOKI!
EH?
ARE YOU CRYING?
I AIN'T CRYING, STUPID!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
AND
WHAT'S WITH THIS WEIRD GLOVE...?
.....

RIGHT HERE!
OKAY, OZAWA!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
ALRIGHT!

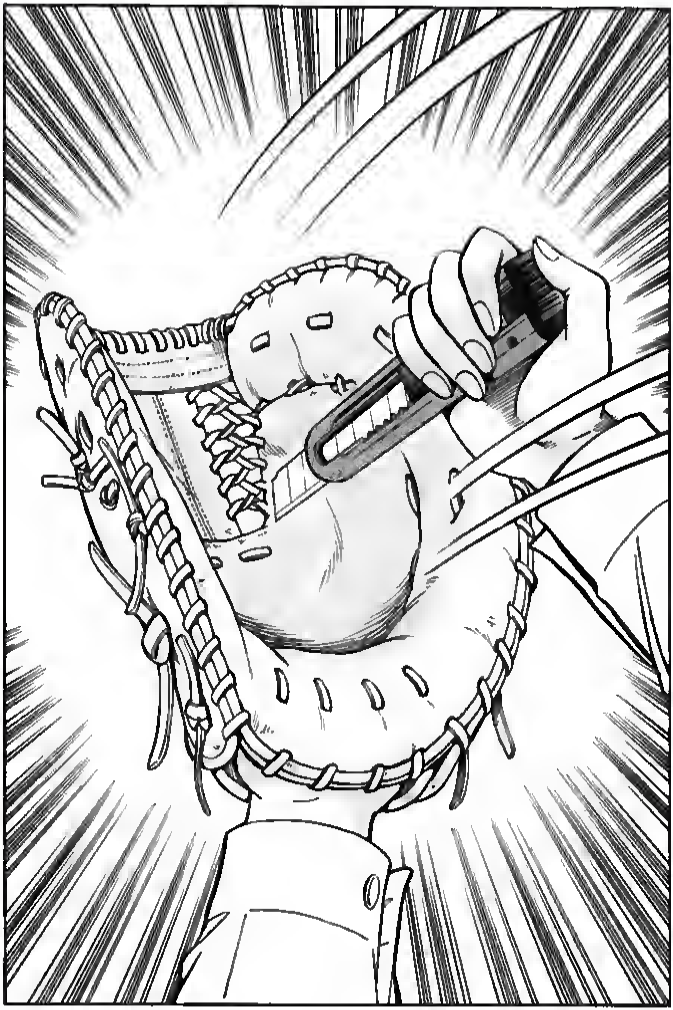
OZAWA! MORE CONTROL!

MY SON SEEMS TO BE DOING RATHER WELL.
WHAT?
YOU CAN CALL ME A 'DOTING PARENT' IF YOU LIKE
TAKA-NABE
YESSIR!

OZAWA ...
HMM...
I'M A BIT JEALOUS...
HE'S GETTING THE MOST OUT OF "JUNIOR" THERE...
OH NO, GO AHEAD ...
I DON'T DISAGREE WITH YOU THERE..

野球部
P...
PRINCESS..
山沢
My good-natured brother is a sucker!!! Though I got a scar from Ozawa!!!
WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!

ガッ
STOP IT!
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ

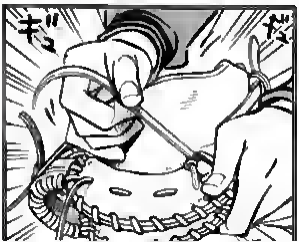


THAT YOU WANT REVENGE ON ME I UNDERSTAND BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON THIS GLOVE!
Let me go "A-"!!

Since it was handed over I'll tear it apart when I feel like it!

WHAT?
I've been waiting till my brother handed it over to you, "A-"!

TH... THAT'S...



WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
it's no fun to shred something that's half finished
It's only fun right after it's been given as a present

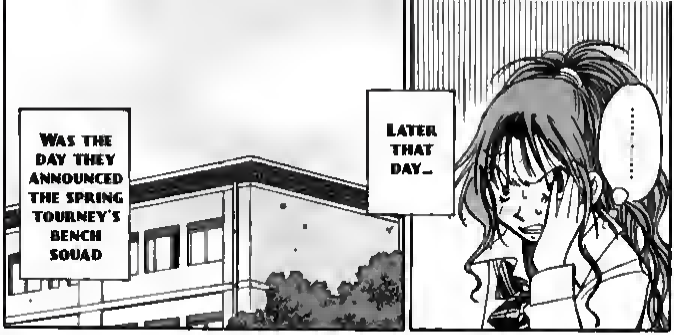
I GATHERED THAT MUCH, BUT .
KAI
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
IT'S A GLOVE, GRANDMA
NEXT YEAR HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WILL BE COMING TO JOIN OUR BALL-CLUB
YOU KNOW SANTAROU OZAWA OF THE YAKULT SWALLOWS?
AH, SO YOU'RE A "TWIN-THROWER'S" GLOVE JUST FOR HIM?
THAT'S RIGHT!
WOW, IS THAT SO?
HE HAS A RARE "TWIN SWORDS" PITCHING ABILITY...
RIGHT OR LEFT, HE CAN THROW WITH EITHER ONE
THAT BOY IS GOING TO BECOME MY "KOUHAI"
DO YOU REALLY NEED TO GO THIS FAR, KAI?
BUT EVEN SO...

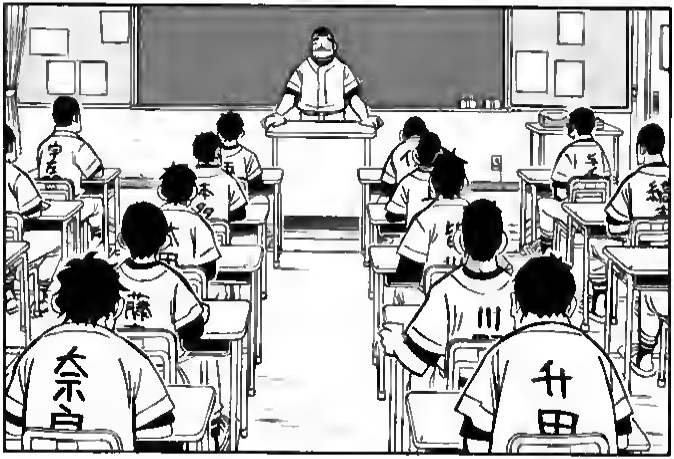
キュ…
キュ…
IN THE FUTURE, HE WILL BE A GUY WHO WILL LEAD THIS TEAM
I'VE GOT A FEELING ABOUT THIS GUY...
YOU KNOW, GRANDMA
HMM
Just spewing nonsense out of his mouth while he was making—
THE TEAM CAP-TAIN..
CA-
CAP-TAIN..
This twin-thrower's glove!
The person who gave you this..

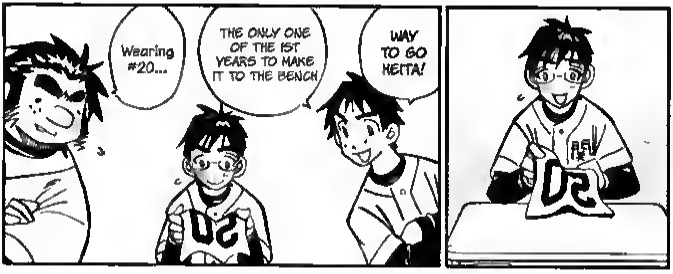
Is forgetting all about the "evil one who scarred his sister"!
!
STOP!

Y- You hit me...
IT'S...
IT'S TRUE THAT I GAVE YOU A SCAR ON YOUR FOREHEAD, PRINCESS, BUT...
You laid your hands on me
PRINCESS, DO YOU HATE YOUR BROTHER...
I CAN'T FORGIVE TAKING A KNIFE TO THIS GLOVE...
EVEN MORE THAN YOU DO ME?
THAT...
THAT WONDERFUL TEAM CAPTAIN...
THAT WONDERFUL BROTHER OF YOURS...
Shut up!

PRINCESS ...
PR...
"A-" !!
What would you know? Huh!
What was that?! "A-"!
FIGHTING HER BROTHER LIKE THAT, I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER COMPLICATED PERSONALITY
I DON'T GET IT
YOU'VE GONE NUTS

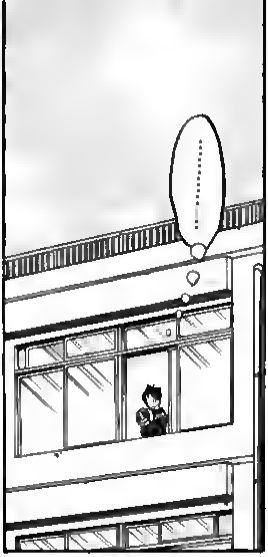

WAS THE DAY THEY ANNOUNCED THE SPRING TOURNEY'S BENCH SQUAD
LATER THAT DAY...
.....

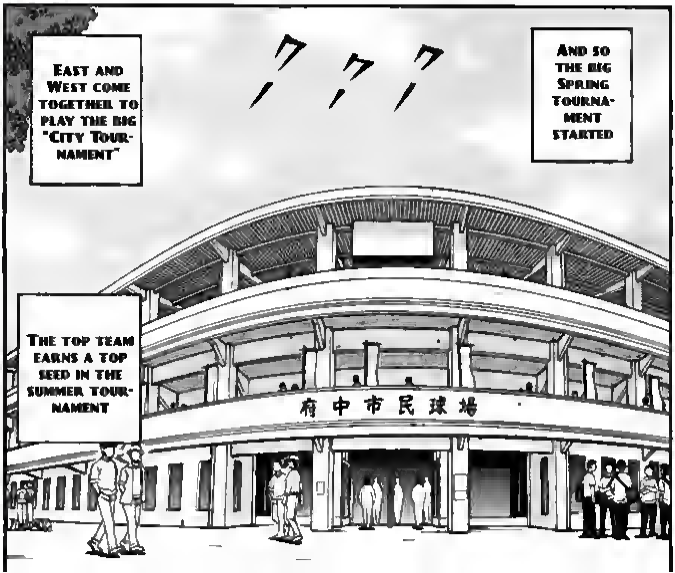



Wearing #20...
THE ONLY ONE OF THE 1ST YEARS TO MAKE IT TO THE BENCH
WAY TO GO HEITA!

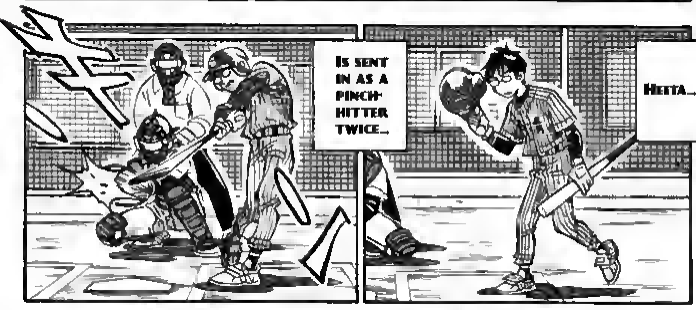
#5 KIMO-O (2ND YEAR)
#4 MINAGAWA (3RD YEAR)
#3 SAKOTA (3RD YEAR)
#2 SHIMA-O (3RD YEAR)
#1 KAMITSUKI (3RD YEAR)
#10 YOMOU (3RD YEAR)
#9 KONNO (3RD YEAR)
#8 GORIN (3RD YEAR)
#7 MINOU (3RD YEAR)
#6 IKURA (3RD YEAR)
#15 AMADA (2ND YEAR)
#14 NARA (2ND YEAR)
#13 MIYAZONO (2ND YEAR)
#12 HONDA (3RD YEAR)
#11 USAJI (3RD YEAR)
#20 SEKIGUCHI (1ST YEAR)
#19 FUJIMOTO (2ND YEAR)
#18 YAMANAMI (2ND YEAR)
#17 MASUDA (2ND YEAR)
#16 KAMIYA (2ND YEAR)

SHE GOT ANGRY AGAIN...
I... REALLY HIT PRINCESS
BUT I HAD TO DO THAT IN THAT SITUATION
THAT CUTTER-KNIFE DIDN'T LEAVE ANY BIG GASHES
THE LEATHER OF THIS LUCKY GLOVE IS WARM...




EAST AND WEST COME TOGETHER TO PLAY THE BIG "CITY TOURNAMENT"
AND SO THE BIG SPRING TOURNAMENT STARTED
THE TOP TEAM EARNS A TOP SEED IN THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT
府中市民球場

The Shima-o High that made it to the Best 8 in last fall's city tournament do well and advance through the rounds


Is sent in as a pinch-hitter twice...
Heita...

Hey there, Sekiguchi got another hit...

For 2 hits...

It is not a batting of a student who was in a junior high until last month.

NICE HIT

Lately, Princess...
I may be wrong, but...
Hasn't said anything, has she?
Abo...
SEEING HEITA PLAY LIKE THAT... SETS ME BURNING INSIDE

She hasn't said anything to me either...
So... Is that so...?
SHE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING TO HIM ABOUT THAT THING WITH THE GLOVE?
HADN'T NOTICED...
REALLY
Princess hasn't made us follow her around like that....
After that incident...
You know...
SAD?
SAY WHAT?
Going to places like the game center was kinda fun...
WELL I GUESS THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?
OKAY..
Yeah but... It's kinda sad, you know?
NOT AT ALL?
Well... no...
No nothing like that...

If we put aside that whole mess from before...
That's... That's mostly true, but...
THINGS LIKE THAT ARE ENOUGH FOR ME
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, HACHIGOROU?
HACHIGOROU, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME??
We've got to talk
"A-"!
IN THE SPRING TOURNAMENT... DID SHIMA-O HIGH GET THE PREDICTED SEED?
WE'LL GET TO THAT LATER...
府中市民球場

.....
That's not it
DON'T FEEL LIKE HANGING OUT WITH YOU AT YOUR PLEASURE, PRINCESS
AT THIS POINT, I...
She said she's interested in you!
That long-faced Maki...
WHAT?!
You remember those two?
This is about my friends
WHA..?
Y
YEAH...

I don't really want to do this, but...
So you'll have to go out with me...
My friends asked this of me too...
Seems she's quite taken with your charm

A
T
?
W
H

I PUT MY ALL INTO BASEBALL CLUB PRACTICES!
EX, EXCUSE ME!
McCoyney
.....
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA

.....
ANYWAY IT DOESN'T MATTER..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT..
OKAY, OKAY...
SOMEHOW IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LIKE WE'RE MEANT TO BE TOGETHER...
A CUTE GUY LIKE THIS...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YES IT DOES!
This pays off my debt!
Maki
.....
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN USED SOMEHOW
WH.. JUST WHAT'S GOING ON HERE..?
.....

ストライプブルーは第4巻につづきます。

初出／週刊少年チャンピオン 2007年39号～47号

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SHŌNEN CHAMPION COMICS

ストライプブルー③

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先輩の命令は絶対服従だ!!
ますます目が離せないっ！『青春☆トキメキ野球道部』第3弾！

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